

## Bush: U.S. not involved in Libya fire

CAIRO (AP) — In a telephone call, President George Bush assured President Hosni Mubarak Saturday that the United States was not involved in a fire at a suspected chemical weapons plant in Libya. Mubarak initiated the long call, said the state-run Middle East News Agency, but the agency did not say which leader brought up Wednesday night's blaze at Rabta chemical plant southeast of Tripoli, Libya's capital (see page 2). Neither did the report, which appeared to be a handout from Mubarak's office, indicate whether Bush volunteered his denial of U.S. involvement or made it in reply to a question from Mubarak. "President Bush assured President Mubarak... that he had nothing to do with what happened lately in the Libyan Jamahiriya, despite previously declared U.S. objections to industries that might be related to chemical weapons," the agency said. The United States had charged the Rabta plant was for the manufacture of chemical weapons. Libya insists it was to produce pharmaceuticals.

# Jordan Times

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## Rights group hits Sudan

NAIROBI (AP) — A leading human rights organization estimates that at least half a million civilians have been killed by war and famine in Sudan since 1986 and calls the country's current government "exceptionally cruel and intolerant." In a 140-page report released in Nairobi and elsewhere Sunday, Africa Watch said responsibility for the "deaths of so many innocent Sudanese civilians" is borne by "the Sudanese armed forces, militia groups armed, organized and encouraged by successive governments, and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)." The New York-based organization said the seven-year-old civil war between the SPLA and the government "has been characterized by gross violations of human rights on a scale so substantial that Sudan is being torn apart." It noted a United Nations estimate that 250,000 people died as a result of famine in 1988 alone and said the famine was caused by "deliberate policies adopted both by the government and the SPLA." These tactics included obstructing relief supplies, obstructing or distorting commercial food markets and preventing famine-stricken populations from finding food in the countryside, Africa Watch said.

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## Cabinet allocates funds to institutions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh, approved the distribution of JD 371,000 among various institutions in the Kingdom, JD 6,000 for the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to finance some of the association's activities. The Cabinet also approved the draft budget, and personnel structure of the Institute of Public Administration and the education tax. The institute's budget for this year amounted to JD 233,000 while the estimated education tax is JD 4.4 million.

## Ben Ali receives King's message

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Saturday received a written message from His Majesty King Hussein, chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). Jordan's Ambassador to Tunis, Talal Sataan Al Hassan, who delivered the message, said that it dealt with promoting relations between the two countries and bolstering cooperation and coordination between the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union. Hassan said that he conveyed the King's greetings to Ben Ali, current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, and His Majesty's wishes to the Tunisian president and people for further progress and prosperity. The Tunisian president affirmed his keen interest to promote and develop cooperation between Tunisia and Jordan and the Arab Maghreb Union, the ambassador said.

## Badran in Sanaa

SANAA (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran arrived here Saturday at the head of a Jordanian delegation for the Joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee meetings which were due to open late Saturday. Badran was welcomed by his North Yemeni counterpart Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, who will co-chair the two-day meetings with Badran. In a statement upon arrival Badran said he hoped that the meeting would lead to further steps towards greater integration and cooperation between the two countries. Accompanying the prime minister to the meeting in Sanaa are the ministers of health, public works and housing, industry and trade, education, energy and mineral resources as well as the Ministry of Industry and Trade's secretary general.

## De Michellis arrives in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michellis arrived Saturday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral cooperation and how to push forward the Middle East peace process. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid greeted De Michellis at Cairo International airport and escorted him immediately to a meeting with Mubarak at the president's private residence. At the airport, De Michellis said nothing to reporters but Abdul Meguid said talks would focus on how Italy, as a member of the European Community, could help the search for Middle East peace. Under the community's rotating presidency system, Italy takes over July 1 for six months.

## Lithuanians elect Communist deputy premier

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuania's legislature elected a popular Communist official as deputy premier Saturday and the Baltic state's president rejected Moscow's deadline for reversing its declaration of independence. Estonia and Latvia also prepared Saturday for parliamentary elections Sunday that were expected to elect pro-independence lawmakers. Leading up to the elections, Estonians rallied Friday night in the capital Tallinn and Latvian demonstrators planned protests in their capital Riga Saturday. Lithuania's legislature forced the popular Communist official and former Lithuanian president, Algirdas Brazauskas, a vote of 122-3.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday meets with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter (Petra photo)

## Carter briefs Regent on his talks in Egypt and Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday met with former American President Jimmy Carter, who briefed him on his talks with the leaders of Egypt and Syria during his current Middle East visit, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The agency did not give any details. Carter, accompanied by his wife, arrived here Friday on the third leg of a visit to the region. He started the visit in Egypt last week and then travelled to Syria before arriving here. Carter also had a meeting with

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and briefed him on the nature of his current tour in the region. Carter also spoke about his endeavours for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to be preceded by a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Qasem presented to Carter an outline of Jordan's policy with regard to the developments in the Palestinian issue, noting the various obstacles that impede a settlement and referring to Israel's intransigent position and Israel's total disregard to the re-

quirements of peace, Petra said. He also spoke about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis Jewish immigration to Palestine and Israel's announced intentions to create a "greater Israel." Carter visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its president, Hani Al Mulqi, who briefed him on its function and plans. The former U.S. president held a meeting with senior journalists and leading personalities in Jordan Saturday evening and briefed them on the nature of his current visit to the region.

## Carter defends Camp David, says Jewish immigration impedes peace

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter urged Arab leaders Saturday to reconsider the 1979 Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt to reach a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Carter also described mass Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as "an impediment to peace." Carter declared: "If you go back now and reexamine the Camp David agreement, you would see that it provides a framework for peace." His comments were made during an informal meeting with members of parliament, which was open to the press. Carter, who brokered the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty, said: "I don't maintain that the Camp David accord is a perfect document, but it can obviously be a binding document." He explained that the Israeli parliament had approved the Camp David accord, which includes the recognition of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Carter said: "This was the first time Israel ever approved Resolution 242." Carter said that Arab leaders could select "the parts they want

to stay there." Carter supported convening an international peace conference on the Middle East after the Arabs and Israel "reach an adequate and mutual trust." "At this stage, I'm strongly supportive of a step by step approach," he said. Commenting on the fall of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government, and efforts to form a new administration led by rival Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, Carter said: "Mr. Shamir has never been ready to sit and talk to Palestinians." "Labour are ready... to advocate that a decision has to be made to begin talks with the Palestinians," he added. "It might not amount to much. We might be disappointed. But it opens the door, a crack at least, for Palestinians and Israelis to reach a common ground." Carter and his wife Rosalyn flew in from Syria Friday on the third leg of a Middle East fact-finding mission which has also taken him to Cairo. He will visit Israel and the occupied territories Sunday. After that, Carter has said he would go to Tunis to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat. His visit is the fourth since he left office in 1981. Carter last visited the region in 1983.

of Nur Shams refugee camp outside the town. The spokesman said Abu Samen was hit by an Arab-owned vehicle and that troops were seeking the car and the driver. Palestinians said Abu Samen was struck by an army vehicle and staged a spontaneous general strike in Tulkarem in protest. The accident occurred early Saturday morning and Abu Samen died soon after of head and back injuries, reports said. A third Arab death was reported in Jerusalem, where the body of a 65-year-old man from Ramallah was found in an abandoned building near the old walled city, city police said. An autopsy was being conducted to determine the cause of death, police said.

## 3 Palestinians found dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Saturday shot and wounded four Palestinians while dispersing stone-throwing protesters, including an 11-year-old boy in Jabalya village in at least three places in the Gaza Strip, reports said. Three Palestinian men died meanwhile of mysterious or disputed circumstances in the occupied territories, Arab reports said. In the West Bank city of Nabulus, unknown assailants fired four fatal gunshots at Mazen Bishawi, 28, in his clothing and cosmetics shop. Bishawi died en route to hospital of head and chest wounds, the reports said. Reporters said it was unclear why Bishawi was killed and that he was not known to be a col-

laborator with Israel. Israel Radio said he may have been killed by accident. According to reports, Bishawi's younger brother Nasser, 26, was shot in the legs three months ago by activists as an alleged collaborator with the Israeli occupation authorities. Since the start of the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising, some 663 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and another 198 slain by unknown assailants as accused collaborators with Israel. Forty-three Israelis also have died in the unrest. A second Palestinian death was reported in Tulkarem in the West Bank. A military spokesman denied army involvement in the hit and run car accident that killed 50-year-old Mohammad Abu Samen

## Democracy is real guarantor for security, future — Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that although Jordan is facing a very serious financial situation unprecedented in its history, the democracy in the Kingdom was a real guarantor of the country's security and future. "Jordan has a heavy foreign debt burden; and it has an army far greater than its resources can support but shouldering a heavy national responsibility," Badran said in an interview with the London-based Al Tadamon magazine published to be Monday. "But, democracy is the real safety-valve for the safety and security of the Kingdom," he said.

The prime minister said that there had been parliamentary life in Jordan over the past years the Kingdom would not have been facing the present situation since parliamentarians would have intervened and blocked government actions which led to this situation. In the interview, excerpts from which were carried in advance by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday, the prime minister reviewed the economic and political history of Jordan.

Ever since it was created as an emirate in the 1920s, Jordan always needed financial aid, he noted. "Britain used to grant the Emirate of Transjordan JD 6 million in aid (every year), then JD 12 million and later JD 16 million under a treaty which was cancelled when Arab countries pledged assistance to substitute

the British aid," he recalled. "However, Arab financial assistance failed to materialise and the country had to turn to American aid since it always remained committed to the Palestinian cause, which added to its financial burdens." "But, now, the Kingdom is facing serious financial problems which will take a long time to resolve," Badran told Al Tadamon.

Following are major excerpts from the interview: The Kingdom now faces real economic and financial imbalances which disrupted the national economy's various aspects. The Jordanian dinar, which was the pride of the Kingdom, was considered like gold, specially by the West Bank citizens who used to depend on it as a solid currency. The Kingdom issued the JD 20 bill to make it easier for the West Bank citizens to use the Jordanian currency, which they preferred to the U.S. dollar.

Following the decision to sever ties with the West Bank, administrative procedures were taken that led to further deterioration in the value of the national currency. I had at the time cautioned against administrative action which would have no beneficial result. My advice was the West Bankers should retain Jordanian nationality because they had no other option. But the measures prompted the West Bank citizens to consider the Jordanian decision not as a political one and consequently they wanted to get rid of the dinar as soon as possible. At least JD 90 million were brought to Jordan and exchanged for dollars, and this put further pressure on the Jordanian economy. The exchange rate of the U.S.

dollar rose against the dinar and at times it reached 115 piasters, causing confusion and a feverish rush for foreign currencies in the local market. In short, the national currency collapsed and the country had no more foreign currency while the ordinary citizens were left to face the ugly face of soaring prices and high cost of living. This was followed by the introduction of an economic restructuring programme without ample preparation and without putting the public in the right picture about the financial and economic situation in the country.

The government used to give pledges that there will be no rise in prices, but the prices rose the following day.

We always say that successive governments bear continued responsibility, but this schism has been deep. There is an economic and financial disorder in many aspects of our life.

As a result, the poverty line in Jordan began to rise and what happened in the south (in April 1989) was only a symptom of the social condition which is far more serious than an external threat. King Hussein returned home speedily to calm down the situation and Saudi Arabia came to Jordan's help by providing urgent financial assistance.

With the election of a new parliament and (the assumption of office by) a new government, matters began to stabilise again, especially after the Central Bank of Jordan succeeded in fixing an exchange rate for the Jordanian dinar against foreign currency.

Had we had Parliament over the past years, the deputies would have stepped the government from excesses and would have voted it out of office.

In Jordan there are no more political prisoners and those convicted for non-political crimes should not be

considered political prisoners. Jordan, along with the rest of the Arab countries, is now facing the influx of Jewish immigrants to Palestine. In the past only 10 per cent of the Soviet and European Jews chose to settle in Israel but the Zionist lobby in the United States is now pressing for more and trying to ensure that all Jews settle in Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

Jordan was the first Arab country to warn against the danger, and it succeeded in preventing direct air flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv. But the question is far from being settled, and we are witnessing the emergence of settlements in the occupied lands. This is a great danger we are facing.

I talked to the Soviet ambassador in Amman recently and explained our position and said that Jordan realises the kind of pressures on Moscow but I really did not believe that the Soviet Union will succumb to the will of the Zionists and allow this big number to emigrate.

I told the Soviet ambassador to look into the rights of other people and noted that the Jewish immigrants were bound to settle on Palestinian lands and that let us solve the Palestine question and then the Jews can come to Palestine.

Since 1967, all American presidents have been pleading to resolve the Palestine question and (Ronald) Reagan gave a pledge to King Hussein that he will solve the issue before his second term in office comes to an end.

The U.S. and Israel have no belief in people's rights, they only believe in power; the weak has no right in this international society. That is why the ACC and other Arab groupings must build their own power, since we do not intend to be an easy prey in this world.

## Regent emphasises need for cohesion, unity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday that Jordan was facing numerous challenges and it is the duty of all citizens to confront them with a spirit of objectivity and reason. "These challenges can best be dealt with through cohesion and stronger internal unity," the Regent said at a meeting with presidents of Jordanian professional and trade unions. "I would like to remind you that the Great Arab Revolt's message was a progressive one whose principles could guide us in our endeavours and in facing our present difficult situation," the Prince said at the meeting, held at the Royal Court. He reviewed urgent issues, including the question of public

freedoms, unemployment and democracy. He called for organised collective work that can best serve the national interests.

The Regent stressed the responsibility of all professional unions before the Jordanian society and said that unions can provide training for all able-bodied Jordanians who can work and contribute to the productive process.

The Regent heard a speech by Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, the Jordanian Medical Association president, who voiced the group's appreciation of Prince Hassan's views. He said that professional unions were now preparing for a general conference to be held in May in Amman to discuss the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine.

## Iraqi leader visits S. Arabia; anti-British protests in Iraq

RIYADH (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein made a surprise visit to Saudi Arabia Saturday at the invitation of King Fahd following the uproar over Iraq executing a British-based journalist on spying charges. Iraq has been criticised in Britain and other Western nations for allowing the death sentence to go ahead just days after it was passed. Baghdad brushed aside international appeals for clemency. Fazzal Bazzaf, an Iranian-born journalist for the Observer weekly, was arrested in Iraq in September. He was sentenced to death for spying for Israel and Britain on March 11 and was hanged on Thursday, March 15. Hussein's visit was announced by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) which said the Iraqi president arrived at the northeastern town of Hafir Al Baten at the invitation of the Saudi monarch.

The agency gave details of the airport reception ceremony led by Fahd but it did not comment on the purpose of the visit. Fahd has spent several weeks at Hafir Al Baten, base for a fledgling Gulf rapid deployment force. Hussein was accompanied by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister Saudoun Hamadi and Latif Nassayif Jassim, minister of information and culture.

The visit came as tens of thousands of Iraqis took to the streets in all major cities to denounce Britain for withdrawing its ambassador, expelling six Iraqi military students and cancelling all military visits. Diplomatic sources in the Gulf said that Saudi and other Gulf foreign ministers meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and other European Community (EC) ministers on trade issues in Oman were pressing for restraint from London. Saudi Arabia has billions of dollars in arms contracts with Britain, its largest arms supplier. Tens of thousands of Iraqis besieged the British embassy compound in downtown Baghdad Saturday to protest Britain's denunciation of the execution of Bazzaf.

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The sprawling, walled compound on the Western bank of the Tigris River was ringed by police officers and plain clothes security agents. They blocked the main entrance to the compound with their Mercedes cars. Officials of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party estimated that 100,000 people turned out in Baghdad. There were no reports of violence as the demonstrators converged on the embassy, which was closed for the weekend. No embassy personnel could be seen in the compound, where they usually play tennis or hold exercise sessions Saturday mornings. The protesters carried placards praising the government's decision to hang Bazzaf.

## Ministry of Education reinstates 153 teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education announced Saturday that it has reinstated 153 teachers who had been dismissed for political reasons or did not get job on political grounds. "This figure represents half of the total number of teachers who had submitted requests to the ministry for reappointment after being dismissed for political reasons," according to a statement issued by the ministry. The ministry said that it was considering the applications of the rest of the teachers and would give them priority in filling positions in different regions. The government said the ministry Saturday submitted requests by 79 teachers to the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which normally processes applications for employment in government departments. Acting upon instructions from the government, the Ministry of Education announced last month that it had reappointed 74 men and women teachers who had been dismissed for political reasons. The reappointment of

these teachers and other government employees was demanded by the Lower House of Parliament.

Last Wednesday a sit-in was staged outside the Prime Ministry office in Amman in protest against delays in the reinstatement of 950 persons dismissed from jobs for political reasons.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh, who met a delegation representing the dismissed persons reaffirmed the government's commitment to reappoint them and assured them they will be given priority in appointment over all other job seekers but he said there can be no timetable for reappointment since the government will have to examine vacancies and possible filling of positions at various departments.

"The government," Masa'deh said, "will still have to take the views of the security departments when it appoints any person in sensitive offices like information, the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Ministry."

## Likud maps strategy to stay in power

TEL AVIV (AP) — Leaders of caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc were meeting Saturday night to map out a strategy for remaining in power despite their government's demise in a parliamentary vote of no confidence two days earlier. Among the steps being considered by Likud's parliament faction is ousting Shamir as the party's leader and replacing him either with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens or Deputy Premier David Levy, Israel Radio reported. Shamir has been blamed for losing the support of two swing religious parties in parliament which helped the left-of-centre Labour Party to a 60-to-55 victory in the 120-member legislature in Thursday's vote. The non-confidence measure came after Shamir fired Labour leader Shimon Peres as vice premier on March 13 and other Labour ministers quit in protest, in a dispute about U.S. proposals for convening Israeli-Palestinian talks. No immediate decision was expected at Saturday's Likud meeting, but the focus of discussion

would be ways of persuading President Chaim Herzog to assign Likud the task of forming a new government, the radio said. Herzog meets Sunday with leaders of Likud with 40 seats in parliament and Labour with 39 as he launches customary consultations with the parties before assigning a would-be prime minister to put together a ruling coalition. Peres, a former premier, has been favoured by Israeli media to win the president's mandate in view of some newly acquired support from religious factions which combined with 15 seats held by left-wing parties could give him an edge over Likud in mustering a majority. But Likud still hopes to win back the confidence of two key religious parties, the Sephardic "Torah Guardians," or Shas party and the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel, who hold a combined 11 seats in parliament. Both factions have traditionally allied with Likud in the past. They broke ranks Thursday claiming Shamir had failed to siphon them promised funds for religious seminars or to pass religious legislation.



## OIC urges moves to block emigration of Soviet Jews

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Representatives of nine members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) met Saturday to discuss urgent measures to counter mass emigration by Soviet Jews to Israel and occupied Arab territories.

"The meeting should enable us to define urgent measures to be taken individually or collectively to counter the diabolical plan against the Islamic nation, the Palestinians and the Arab people of the Middle East," OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid said in an opening speech.

The two-day meeting is attended by officials from Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria, Sierra Leone and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The 46-member OIC is the political umbrella for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

Ghabid accused Israel of exploiting liberalisation in Eastern Europe to move large numbers of Jews from the Soviet Union and

settle them in Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The policy of assembling Jews in occupied Palestine has become a basic element of Zionist strategy aimed at creating a greater Israel," he added. He also accused Washington of facilitating the emigration of Jews to Israel by restricting their entry into the United States.

"The United States... refused to take these new immigrants and exerted pressure for direct air links between Moscow and Tel Aviv," he said.

Ghabid added that the European Community had taken the same attitude.

He said that successive Israeli governments have established a link between Jewish emigration

and the relations between the two superpowers.

"They have increased their pressure on the Soviet Union so that it may authorise the emigration of Jews under the cover of human rights," he said.

"Strangely enough, they always made the free emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union one of the important issues in American-Soviet relations."

Ghabid warned of the "grave consequences" of large-scale Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel.

He said it would "create major upheavals in the region, change its demography, undermine Palestinian rights, lead to the confiscation of more Palestinian land, the setting up of more settlements and strengthen the Israeli military apparatus."

He called on OIC states and the international community "to react in a strong manner so as to prevent the realisation of Israel's nefarious plans."

## Hostage's sister leads anniversary vigil

WASHINGTON (R) — The sister of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson has met privately with President George Bush on the fifth anniversary of her brother's capture and later appealed to the Lebanese hostage-holders: "Hear our cry, release these men."

Peggy Say, who believes the ordeal of the hostages and their loved ones may soon be over, walked from the White House across Pennsylvania Avenue to Lafayette Park and joined a vigil by 200 well-wishers of the hostages.

"We are the American people and you have humiliated us and you have degraded us and you have beaten and killed us and you have angered us," she said.

"And you wonder why your claims of justice fall on deaf ears. You say that your story is not being told and yet the man that told it so well (her journalist brother) has been chained to a basement wall for five years."

"You want us to hear your cry."

You hear ours and release these men."

Bush and his wife Barbara spent 30 minutes in their White House family quarters listening to Peggy Say, who has conducted a five-year crusade for the freedom of her brother and other Westerners held by pro-Iranian Muslim groups in Lebanon.

Bush later took pains to discourage speculation that Anderson, the longest-held American and others may soon be freed. Rumours to that effect have swept from the Middle East.

"I think we've got to be careful that we don't send a signal to the hostage holders that make them feel that there's more advantage in holding the hostages than in releasing them," Bush said in an interview on National Public Radio.

"There's a delicate balance here. You don't overdo public comments, you don't have too many dramatic meetings or call public attention to his."

Seventeen Westerners, includ-

ing eight Americans, are believed held hostage by pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon.

Anderson, 42, was Beirut bureau chief of the Associated Press when he was snatched off a street on March 16, 1985.

Among those attending the vigil were the Rev. Lawrence Junco, a former Lebanon hostage released in the late 1980s, Bruce Laingen, a former officer of the U.S. embassy in Tehran who was among the 52 Americans held by Iran from November 1979 to January 1981, and Democratic Senator Daniel Moynihan.

Bush left the White House for Camp David during the afternoon and did not attend the rally.

Before his meeting with Say, which the White House described as a personal gesture without policy implications, Bush told reporters the hostages plight concerns him "every day I'm alive... sometimes quietly, sometimes publicly, but I will do everything I can to get those hostages out of there."

## Afghan refugee resettlement plan draws criticism

PESHAWAR (AP) — An ambitious U.N. programme to help Afghan refugees return home is being criticised by humanitarian workers and others who say it is too soon to encourage people to go back to the war-torn country.

There are 3.8 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and another 2 million in Iran. Most are holding off on returning to their homeland because of the continued fighting in Afghanistan.

"The primary reason refugees won't leave is still security," said a U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sadrudin Aga Khan, coordinator of the U.N.'s refugee repatriation programme, has appealed for more contributions from governments to meet a \$650-million fundraising target for this year.

But Japan froze a \$43-million contribution, saying the money was being wasted since refugees were not yet returning home in large numbers.

A U.N. official said the Sadrudin Programme was "a bit of a false start."

"Donors have gradually become very skeptical about the likelihood of repatriation," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Almost two years ago, Sadrudin asked for \$1.2 billion in donations, saying hundreds of thousands of refugees would soon be flocking to Afghanistan.

But last year fewer than 100,000 refugees left Pakistan's squalid camps, where open sewers snake through a maze of mud-dirt huts and tents, to return to Afghanistan.

"Most of them say they will go when there is peace and security," said Pierce Gerety, deputy chief of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees mission in Islamabad. "They are afraid of the bombings, but they are also afraid of the complete lack of law and order in Mujahideen-controlled areas."

## Lebanese learn to live together again

By Diana Abdallah  
Reuters

BEIRUT — Tearful Lebanese, one Muslim and one Christian, threw their arms round each other — friends embracing after years of separation forced on them by a climate of hate.

It has taken a war among the Christians in East Beirut to force many people in Lebanon's Christian heartland to get over years of fear and suspicion of Muslims across the frontlines.

The reunion was typical of many now taking place across Lebanon's religious divide after 15 years of civil war which split the country's three million people among sectarian cantons.

"We were best friends turned into strangers by war. But war has brought us together again," said George, a Maronite Christian, taking refuge with his Muslim friend in west Beirut.

In an ironic twist, many Christians have returned to homes in mainly Muslim west Beirut and the mountains from which they fled when battles with the Muslims broke out in 1975.

"Without any policy decisions, barriers between the two communities have been broken. It was like magic," said George.

At least 120,000 Christians have fled their homes since the inter-Christian war erupted between General Michel Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen led by Samir Geagea on Jan. 31.

More than 800 people were killed and thousands wounded in the battles which turned much of the Christian heartland into a wasteland of rubble and burned-out buildings.

Observers believe the Christian exodus to Muslim



A Lebanese woman escapes the fighting between rival Christian forces in east Beirut.

areas was the most important demographic change in the country in years.

"Maybe many of those who came to west Beirut will return to their homes when the Christian battles end... But... the fear of crossing to Muslim areas is over," said one university teacher.

The division of the capital had created wide cultural gaps between the two communities, but now they are learning to live together in a tolerant spirit in which Beirut once took pride.

"Many Christians who came over from East Beirut were really surprised at the good treatment they received," said one Christian who remained in west Beirut throughout the

years of civil war. "It feels great to see Christians and Muslims arguing about politics, but without guns," he added.

Hotels in west Beirut are crowded with Christians. Many are staying with friends they have not seen for years.

It is now common to see Christians shopping in west Beirut's shops, eating at its restaurants and dancing at its clubs.

"Look at all these new faces. Most of the customers are from east Beirut. It is the best thing that has happened in Lebanon for years," said a barman at a nightclub.

"It was like driving to another country. The decision to come here was difficult, but

now I am glad I did," said Raimond Atiyeh, a Christian businessman.

Most of the new Christian generation, born after the start of the civil war, have never set foot in west Beirut. They saw Muslims as aliens who did not even look like them.

Issam Ashkar, a seven-year-old boy, grinned as he told his father after returning from school in west Beirut: "The Muslims are Lebanese too. Did you know that?"

"Maybe this is the only positive outcome of the war between the Christians. It has achieved what no government or foreign country has been able to achieve," his father said.

## Peres' victory signals new Israeli approach

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Labour leader Shimon Peres' victory over hard-line Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir signals a new turn in Israel towards a more flexible diplomacy in peace negotiations.

But both Palestinian and Israeli commentators doubt Peres' ability to make significant concessions or deliver a peace pact without a larger, more stable majority in parliament.

Peres said the new government he hopes to form in the coming weeks would hold a dialogue with Palestinians, and "we will be able to keep our momentum toward peace."

His remarks indicated he would move quickly toward Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

But convening such talks may not be possible for many months because of Peres' involvement in the lengthy process of horse-trading with small political parties and factions to build a new ruling coalition.

The 66-year-old Peres, who was prime minister in 1984-86 and has served as foreign and defence minister, is a master tactician who enjoys the intricacy of diplomatic manoeuvring.

Peres has dismissed as "antiquated ideas" all of the right wing's fears that dialogue would encour-

age unrest or lead Israel into making territorial concessions that would jeopardise national security.

He believes Israel's very involvement in negotiations will help ease Arab-Israeli tensions and change Israeli thinking.

But Peres may lack the backing from parliament to make much headway. Even if he quickly patches together a coalition, it is likely to be a volatile one in which the conservative religious factions would bolt over issues such as the status of Jerusalem.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Peres, who defeated Shamir 60-55 in a parliament no-confidence vote Thursday, has six weeks to force a coalition or lose the mandate to Likud.

If both parties fail, elections could be called or a new coalition sought with Likud. The process could take months, and in the event of new Israeli elections, serious peace talks would not be likely next fall.

Mark Heller, a political analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the constraints on Peres meant that unless the PLO is flexible the Cairo talks may not reach agreement on Israel's proposal to hold elections in the occupied lands.

"If Peres heads a government, Israel will probably go to Cairo

more or less on Baker's terms," Heller said. "But I don't think there would be room for an agreement in Cairo about elections except along the original Israeli lines."

Peres, he explained, had invested so much political capital in bringing down Shamir that he has been forced onto the defensive about issues such as involvement of the PLO and allowing East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in proposed elections.

Heller predicted a Cairo meeting would intensify internal Palestinian debate with radicals using more violence to prevent concessions.

Writing in the conservative Maariv newspaper, commentator Moshe Zak also warned that unrealistic expectations had arisen in Israel that if the Cairo meeting took place the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising would fade away along with the heavy cost in lives and financial resources.

"On the contrary, the PLO will try to accompany the meeting with increased actions of hate against Israel in order to press its claims and to break the national consensus in Israel on Jerusalem," he wrote.

At least 663 Palestinians have died in the uprising. The cost in extra Israeli military expenses and damage to the economy and tourism totals more than \$1 billion.

Jamil Tarifi, a West Bank mod-

erate whose name has been mentioned as a possible negotiator, said it was a victory for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's peace initiative to accept Israel and seek a Palestinian state through negotiations.

"This crisis in Israel is a result of a Palestinian peace initiative. Palestinians successfully played the game... I hope there will be less tension," said Tarifi.

But many other Palestinians were doubtful about how far Labour could go toward agreement without more support in parliament.

Sayed Kanaan, a businessman from the West Bank town of Nablus and a pro-PLO moderate, said "with the existing parliament... it is hard to move forward."

He said the Palestinian uprising would not slacken "until there is a radical change in the public opinion in Israel."

Daoud Kuttub, a leading Palestinian journalist, said Peres could ally Palestinian skepticism with gestures such as releasing some of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and allowing freedom of speech and assembly.

"But it is premature to decide the future of the intifada (uprising)," he said. "It depends on diplomacy, and whether the government of Israel is taking real steps towards peace or not."

## Rabta plant is most likely out of business-Fitzwater

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — White House Spokesman Martin Fitzwater has said a suspected chemical weapons plant in Libya was most likely "out of business" as a result of this week's blaze.

"I don't think we can say for certain... but we do think some very extensive and serious damage has been done," Fitzwater said.

He said he would not speculate on whether sabotage caused the explosion and fire at the Rabta plant. "We still do not have a conclusion of how it occurred."

Asked if the United States had been assured by Israel and West Germany that they were not responsible for the fire, Fitzwater would only say: "I don't know who we've talked to about this."

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qadhafi had said his government is investigating to determine whether West German intelli-

gence agents had anything to do with Wednesday's fire.

Both Israel and West Germany have denied any responsibility, as has the United States.

The administration of President George Bush has said all along that the plant was producing poison gas, although Libya insists the factory was making pharmaceuticals.

"It seems likely that it's out of business, common sense would suggest that. But I don't think we can reach an absolute conclusion at this point," Fitzwater said.

Meanwhile U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday he was inclined to think the fire at Rabta was caused by incompetence rather than sabotage.

"It's a darn shame what happened at Rabta this week," Cheney said with a broad grin to a group of weekly newspaper editors.

## U.S. has no information on Iraqi missile report

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States State Department has said it has "no information or comment" on allegations that a reported Iraqi missile development programme has been aided by some Western companies.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler pointed out that "since April 1987, the United States and its allies, including West Germany, have monitored all exports of missile technology items under the Missile Technology Control Regime."

"U.S. policy prohibits the sale of munitions list items to Iraq. These items include most missile-related equipment and technology," she noted.

Asked if Iraq is attempting to acquire nuclear weapons, the spokeswoman said that she could not comment on intelligence matters. "We have stressed in the past and will continue to stress to Iraq, as with all countries, our concerns regarding the importance of transparency and openness in nuclear matters," she said.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### WFP to give food aid to Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced an emergency food aid project for nearly one million people affected by drought in the Kordofan area of western Sudan. The U.N. body said it would supply 6,500 tonnes of sorghum while a further 5,000 tonnes of sorghum would be donated by the United States. It said drought last year caused a 36 per cent drop in the sorghum and millet crop in the Kordofan area, with nearly one million people affected by shortages.

#### Morocco expels 2 Amnesty officials

LONDON (R) — Morocco has ordered two officials of Amnesty International to leave the country, the London-based human rights group said. Amnesty said in a statement that the officials were meeting members of a non-government human rights group when they were summoned to the Ministry of the Interior and told to leave. The officials arrived in Morocco Tuesday to research human rights concerns, it said. Amnesty regretted the action "especially since he had earlier been assured by the authorities that Morocco was an open country and we would visit again without reference to any restrictions." An Amnesty report last month said Moroccan detention procedures facilitated torture and ill-treatment of those in police custody.

#### 5 killed in Turkish troops, rebels clash

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Four separatist Kurdish rebels and a Turkish soldier were killed in a clash in southeastern Turkey, officials said. The gunbattle with the rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) occurred near Pervari town in Siirt province about 110 kilometres north of the Iraqi border. More than 2,000 people including civilians have been killed since mid-1984 when the PKK launched a violent independence campaign in southeastern Turkey.

#### Businessman appeals nerve gas conviction

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A federal appeals court took under advisement a request to reverse the conviction and sentence of a businessman now imprisoned for conspiring to send deadly nerve gas to Iran. The shipment never occurred, because the deal Yuhwan Yun was accused of trying to arrange last year was made with an undercover government agent. Attorney Donald Morano, representing Yun, asked three judges of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court Friday to overturn the conviction and 30-month prison term on grounds his client was deliberately, and improperly, entrapped by the agent. Government attorney Edna Axelrod said the jury rejected the entrapment defence, and so should the appeals court. Judges Dolores Sloviter, Edward Becker and Walter Stapleton, who heard the appeal, took the request under advisement.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
16:00	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:15	Local programme
18:25	Cultural programme
19:00	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:45	Local programme
22:00	Varieties programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Tel Pere Tel File
18:30	L'ecole de l'air
19:00	News in French
19:15	Actualite' en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss?
21:00	Red Dynasty
22:00	News in English
22:30	"In the Heat of the Day"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:22	Fajr
05:39	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:44	Dhuhr
15:49	'Asr

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

moderate wind and calm sea.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	2 / 13
Aqaba	14 / 24
Deserts	1 / 15
Jordan Valley	9 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**

**AMMAN:**

Dr. Arafat Al Ashbab	602507
Dr. Ahmad Othman	785384
Dr. Isam Abu Rizek	891987
Dr. Weel Dumali	(—)
Firdos pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637025
Al Salam pharmacy	629472
Al Salam pharmacy	630739
Yarash pharmacy	646495
	637660

**IBRID:**

Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek	(—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	(985238)

**ZARQA:**

Dr. Sulaiman Abu Adieh	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

## EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Police Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(—)
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	(—)
Telephone Information	(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	637660

**AMMAN:**

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Molles, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843945
Al-Munster Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Munster	771015/3
Al-Basheh, J. Ashrafiah	751112/6
Army, Marja	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/90
Amal Hospital	674135

**ZARQA:**

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
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**ZARQA NATIONAL HOSPITAL** .. (09)991071  
**Im Sina Hospital** .. (09)986732

**IBBID:**

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Im Al Nafes Hospital	(02)272100

**AQABA:**

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
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## HOSPITALS

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

*This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.*

### ARRIVALS

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

06:45	..... Helsinki (RJ)
09:10	..... Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:25	..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	..... Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (RJ)



## Parliament has proven its independence — Masri

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament has proved over the past few months that it is an independent institution capable of exercising full rights in accordance with the constitution, Lower House of Parliament Deputy Taher Al Masri said on television Saturday evening.

"Parliament has been able to bring about a change in the government's attitude since there are no taboos on anything for Parliament," Masri said in a programme broadcast by television's Channel Two.

Previously the government was tight-lipped about foreign debts and did not reveal any figures to the public," said Masri, a former minister. "Now the picture has changed and the executive authority is cooperating closely with Parliament in revealing the facts," he said.

Masri was speaking on the eve of a parliamentary session called

for Sunday to discuss the income tax law and to fix a date for a session to discuss questions related to the national debt and corruption.

He said that Parliament members were now able to raise sensitive issues with the government such as security measures and seizure of passports and demand answers. But he said that the people have to realise that Parliament also has limited powers although it can control and monitor the government's actions.

Masri, who is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House, said that Jordan's foreign policy was a blend of regional and international questions and Parliament could deal with these questions through cooperation with the executive authority. However, Masri said, there are no big differences between the government and Parliament as far as viewpoints on foreign policy are concerned.

Referring to the developments in Israel, Masri said that Israelis now stand at a turning point, especially as the recent political events came in the wake of differences over the question of talking to the Palestinians.

Masri said that with regard to the Israeli government crisis the U.S. administration has played a positive role. "The U.S. administration has talked in a manner that disturbed Israeli leaders and I believe that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's insistence on receiving answers to his questions about Jewish settlements had had its effect," Masri said.

"President Bush has had many achievements in the past 15 months of his mandate and I believe that he can build on this in terms of policies related to the Middle East," he said.

He said that had the Arabs been more united, the chance would have been better for the major world powers to hear their



Taher Al Masri

views and help bring about a speedy end to the conflict.

"There is no need to declare war or withdraw our Arab assets and funds from the United States to make it understood that we are serious," he said.

"It is enough for the Arabs to adopt a certain foreign policy and make it known to all and it is enough to pool Arab resources to make the world understand the Arab Nation's position," he said.

## Regent urges Arab Nation to invest in all resources

CAIRO (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday urged the Arab Nation to set specific targets for investment in all available resources for the benefit of Arab citizens and to meet the challenges in the last decade of the 20th century.

"Only through this method can we deal with the challenges without fear and without embarking on our task in the new decade with pessimism," the Regent said in a message addressed to a three-day symposium on prospects for continued development in the 1990s which opened in Cairo.

In his message, delivered on his behalf by Jordan's Ambassador

to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer, the Regent urged the United Nations to adopt a programme that can provide for multipurpose tasks in the Arab World and which can promote inter-Arab cooperation.

"We are not fully satisfied with the achievements of the past decade and we are not sure that development was progressing well in all parts of the Arab World especially in the second half of the 1980s and therefore we are looking for ways to revive development through sound planning, through positive cooperation and through creativity and further cohesion among the various countries of the Arab World," the Prince said.

"In the 1980s, the Arab World began to realise the dangers of backwardness in Jordan, and through the Arab Thought Forum, we have taken modest steps to promote education and began to work together with the Arab countries towards ensuring food, social and military security and try to solve other issues plaguing the Arab World like illiteracy." The Regent said that the Arab World has now realised the hostility it is facing from other nations and the siege being imposed on the Arabs and realised the extent of backwardness in terms of technology and the need to free the Arabs from total dependence on others.

Prince Hassan said that the symposium was a precious opportunity to benefit from a fruitful relationship and cooperation with the United Nations, and a chance for the experts to link oil and energy with development in the Arab World.

A two-member delegation from Jordan is attending the meetings which will review economic and social developments in the 1980s and prospects for Arab development in the new decade.

The symposium was organised by the United Nations Development Programme, the Arab Thought Forum and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

## Ex-official under probe released on bail

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A former Ministry of Supply official who was detained last month in what was seen as the first attempt to try officials for financial mismanagement has been released on JD 250,000 bail and the prosecutor-general is planning to expand the investigations into the affair, legal sources said Saturday.

Abdullah Hawamdeh, former secretary-general of the Ministry of Supply, was released early this week on bail "because the questioning has been completed and in consideration of his poor health," Minister of Justice Youssef Mbeideen told the Jordan Times Saturday. Hawamdeh

was detained last month after his return from England where he underwent heart surgery.

The case involves alleged misuse of funds and embezzlement related to a government purchase of rice in April 1989 worth over \$700,000, according to a Prime Ministry source.

Attorney General Mohammad Smadi has instructed District Attorney Mohammad Khreishan to investigate further into the affair, and it is believed that some others could be implicated in the case, other informed sources said.

The district attorney's office is expected today to issue a formal order for investigations into "others involved in the rice deal, including a major local com-

pany," said one of the source. It was not immediately clear when the prosecutor-general's office planned to file formal charges in the case, but some sources said it could come as early as next week.

The formal charges are expected to include "abusing an official position for profiteering," said the source.

Hawamdeh, who was detained Feb. 17, was refused bail at least twice while hospitalised under custody. The third bid for bail was successful since a new medical report showed that his heart condition warranted rest, according to the source. However, the passport of the former official remained in custody, the source added.

According to another source,

the defence of Hawamdeh will be based on an argument that the treasury did not suffer any losses in the rice deal since "prices were readjusted after the tender was awarded and the necessary allocation was made."

However, according to the Prime Ministry source, "Hawamdeh overstepped his authority" in changing the tender after the allocation was made.

Several senior officials of the Ministry of Supply, including at least one former minister, Fayez Tarawneh, were asked to give their testimonies in the case during investigations, the source said. It was not known whether any of them would be called to testify in court and when the case comes up for trial.

## Italy concerned over Israel's intransigence

ROME (Petra) — Italian President Francesco Cossiga has expressed his country's concern over Israel's continued intransigence and said that Israel's offer to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories can by no means serve as a substitute for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Italian president was speaking in Rome upon receiving the credentials of the new Jordanian Ambassador to Italy Hassan Abu Nimer who conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein.

Cossiga described the waves of Jewish immigrants in Palestine as a dangerous development in the region, and he paid tribute to Jordanian-Israeli relations.

"We, in Italy, highly appreciate the on-going efforts of King Hussein to establish peace in the region," the president said. He said that Jordan's role in any peace process will remain essential and basic to Middle East politics.

Cossiga said that Italy supports Jordan's role because it is deeply concerned with the Palestine problem.

## Traders to increase exports to Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of Jordanian industrialists have had successful talks with European importers of ready-made clothes, leather products and contacts are underway with importers to conclude contracts to sell Jordanian products in Europe, according to a statement by the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC).

The JCCC said that a group of industrialists representing six Jordanian factories and a JCCC representative have toured markets in Britain, West Germany, Sweden and Holland to promote

local products. According to the statement Jordan's exports to Europe last year amounted to JD 16 million out of which JD 1 million was for clothes.

In another development, a group of Jordanian businessmen, Saturday called for the creation of a joint institution for the four-member Arab Cooperation Council to be entrusted with importing all the ACC countries needs of primary materials, food and industrial products and also exporting national products to other countries.

## Corporation awards Salt housing contract

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation Saturday awarded a local construction firm a two-year contract for the construction of housing units in the city of Salt and invited residents of the town to apply for units in the project.

Housing Corporation Director-General Youssef Hiyasat, who signed the deal, said that 109 units in the project would have only one floor of 79 square metres but beneficiaries could expand the area horizontally to 136 square metres.

He said that there would also be 47 housing units of 91 square metres, which can be expanded horizontally or vertically to 130 square metres.

"The Housing Corporation will first build four housing units of the first category and eight units of the second category to serve as a model for the beneficiaries to choose from," Hiyasat noted in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In addition, he said, the project site will have 34 plots of land on which beneficiaries can build their homes according to their own desires.

"The project will be supplied with an infrastructure of roads, and electricity, water and sewerage networks as well as public gardens and children's playgrounds," Hiyasat said.

"For the first time the corporation will introduce a system of savings for housing for which guidelines are being worked out at the moment," Hiyasat added.

He said each beneficiary would be free to choose his or her repayment period for the loan. Those who are involved in the savings system for housing can obtain their houses in six years, he said but did not elaborate.

According to Housing Corporation regulations, a beneficiary can spread instalments over 30 years and is normally insured under an arrangement between the corporation and an insurance company for continued ownership of the unit for the family in case of death of the original owner.

According to Hiyasat, the corporation is trying to reduce the cost of buildings and offers beneficiaries relatively small units which can be expanded. It is also trying to offer the chance to others to own a plot of land within the project site on which they can build their own homes.

To date, the largest housing estate ever implemented by the corporation in Jordan is that of the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate north-west of here. It includes 4,500 housing units.

Meanwhile, a special government committee on loans for housing and agricultural projects has recommended that state-owned lands be commissioned to the Housing Corporation which can use them for housing projects.

"The granting of state-owned land to beneficiaries will drastically reduce the cost of the corporation's housing schemes," said a statement issued by the committee, which was set upon directives from Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The committee also recommended that the treasury should bear the cost of operating administrative and technical services, supervising housing schemes and that special allocations should be made available to the Housing Corporation so that it can carry out infrastructure projects without demanding the beneficiaries to foot the bill.

## Jordan, Oman pave way for education, culture pact

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Oman Saturday signed an executive programme to implement a 1990-1992 educational and cultural agreement which paves the way for cooperation in education, vocational training, higher education, culture, sports, youth and social affairs.

The Ministry of Education in Jordan will provide Oman with teachers and vocational instructors as well as school administrators, school supervisors and other specialised personnel in education. Jordan will facilitate the work of Omani committees which arrive here to select teachers, technicians and administrators, according to the agreement signed by Dr. Safwan Touqan, the Ministry of Planning's secret-

ary-general, and Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Sultan.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides will organise joint training courses in vocational training and general education, will exchange books and school curricula and work out special principles for the equivalence of certificates and cooperate in other related fields.

The two sides agreed to exchange expertise, consultations and information pertaining to schools and each will grant the other scholarships and change manuscripts and documents pertaining to culture and education.

They will also jointly prepare for seminars in which lecturers from either country will take part.

## Brotherhood urges 'siege' on interests of U.S., Soviet Union

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan has called for a "siege" on American and Soviet interests in the Middle East region and called on all Arab leaders to abandon efforts for a peaceful settlement with Israel and prepare the Arab people for military action against the Jewish state.

In a communiqué, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, the Brotherhood described the United States as "the military ally of the Jews in Palestine and the main financier of settlements in Palestine."

The statement outlined an eight-point plan of action to stop Jewish immigration to the Israeli-occupied territories by launching an offensive rather than a defensive policy towards solving the Palestinian problem.

"The increase in the number of Jews in Palestine in such large numbers will mean an expansionist policy at the expense of neighbouring countries, especially Jordan and Syria," it said.

The statement called for establishing an Arab people's army of men and women to "turn every inch of the land which has been desecrated by the invaders into hot volcanoes so that it would become a grave for them and a launching point for liberating all of Palestine."

"Spread the spirit of jihad in the souls of the sons of this nation and carry the logo... jihad of victory or martyrdom," the statement said.

It was the second political statement issued this month by the Brotherhood, which boasts of 22 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament. The first statement, issued in the first week of March, called for the inclusion of liberation of the whole of Palestine as a national goal in the proposed national charter.

Such a call is in direct conflict with Jordan's policy, which has led, a drive for a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 which in effect call for the exchange of land for peace and recognise Israel's right to exist in pre-1967 borders.

A senior Jordanian official, who wished to remain anonymous, said recently that the government would not comment on the Brotherhood's call for the inclusion of the full liberation of Palestine in the proposed national charter.

"It is their view and they are expressing it," the official said. "They will participate in the drawing up of the charter and it will be put to the public for approval... we (the government) do not have anything to do with it," he said.

Political pluralism

Islamist deputies in the Lower House of Parliament mean-

while stressed their conviction that there was a need for political pluralism in the Kingdom and respect for other opinions and ideologies.

In a report carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Saturday, Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat said one of democracy's main foundations and pillars was pluralism and respect for man.

"The most beautiful thing about man is the mind, and based on our respect for this mind we believe that man is free in his thinking and ideology," Arabiyat, the official spokesman of the Islamist bloc, said. He added that two people may differ "but both could be adopting two parallel programmes of reform."

Amman Deputy Abdul Momin Abu Zant also expressed support for political pluralism "which takes brotherly relations among citizens into account."

"Regardless of belief, ideology and religion, there should be a feeling of common destiny... a homeland should be a common round table which places all together without regard for political affiliation, regionalism or religion," Abu Zant explained.

Abu Zant ran in the November elections as a Muslim Brotherhood candidate but later fell out of the circle after withdrawing his confidence vote from Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government unlike the Brotherhood which opted to give the government its confidence vote.

Islamist Deputy Yacoub Qarash told Petra that political pluralism was "an integral part of democracy and since we have accepted the democratic process we also have to accept pluralism in ideologies."

He noted that the Jordanian Constitution allows for the existence of political parties "and we accept what the constitution has accepted for us."

Zarqa Islamist Deputy Ziad Abu Mahfouz upheld his conviction that freedom of expression within the dictates of Islam was of the spirit of Islam pointing out that "Muslims ruled for over a thousand years and they always applied God's will through shura which is similar to today's parliament."

Abu Mahfouz fell short of supporting political pluralism indicating a general belief among many Islamists that leftist ideologies, especially communism, contradict Islam and should not be allowed to function as a political force in the Kingdom.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber rejected political parties "with imported ideologies or outside contacts," but added that political pluralism "will not ruin thinking."

"We support freedom of expression and opinion and any ideology which draws out its guidelines from our (Islamic) ideology and reality," Jaber said.

He added that he supports "political parties which would serve our country."

## Aid fund, JPMC help south

By Salameh Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Aid Fund and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company have earmarked JD 1 million each in emergency aid to relieve drought-stricken farmers in the southern region, a Jordanian official said Saturday.

The official told the Jordan Times Prime Minister Mudar Badran was expected to visit the southern region next week to get acquainted with problems facing the population in light of a report presented by a ministerial committee established for that purpose.

Problems facing the southern governorates of Maan, Karak and Tafelah came into focus Friday during a meeting at Mu'ta University attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and deputies and senators representing the south as well as district governors and community leaders.

Deputies complained that the drought has caused shortages in animal feed, high production cost for agricultural products and lower income for local farmers and their families. The deputies also sought government assistance in providing infrastructure including schools, health centres and roads.

The meeting at Mu'ta University near Karak, described by deputies as "a mini parliament," focused on the need for "redefining our priorities and going back to the basics," according to a representative

from the south. Maan deputy Youssef Azem said the meeting was "a consultation with the Crown Prince over our priorities and needs so as to help formulate decisions that will help citizens in the south."

He told the Jordan Times that the meeting was "a candid exchange of views and a dialogue aimed at taking steps to address the drought problem."

During a three-day debate on the national budget last month, deputies demanded more government spending on development projects and services for their respective constituencies. Prime Minister Badran said the government could not respond to all demands due to budgetary constraints dictated by economic problems in the Kingdom.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabariti, who is also a deputy for Maan, urged the Crown Prince to help formulate alternatives to the now moribund five-year (1986-1990) development plan.

Kabariti, who spoke at Friday's meeting, said that due to limitations imposed by the budget, "there is a need to find other ways to address development requirements in the country."

The Lower House of Parliament meets Sunday to debate a proposal tabled by 12 deputies to hold a closed session to discuss the house financial committee's report on the Kingdom's foreign debt and financial and administrative corruption.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent meets Islamic judges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited the office of Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan and met with Islamic court judges to discuss issues pertaining to their tasks and Sharia (Islamic law) court. In a brief address to the meeting the Regent urged judges to promote the social and humanitarian face of the Sharia judiciary in all matters related to personal and civil status in Islam. He also urged judges to corroborate the principles and rules that control the Islamic society and Islamic families with a view to safeguarding family life in Jordan in accordance with Islamic law. At the meeting the Regent heard a briefing by Sheikh Mheilan on the services offered by his office in various parts of the Kingdom and the occupied West Bank.

### Charity bazaar scheduled for tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first charity bazaar by "The Promise Welfare Society" will be held at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Monday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal. The one day bazaar will display mothers day gifts, food stuffs for the month of Ramadan and a charity lottery.

### Jordan, Tunisia to boost cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisia and Jordan Saturday signed an agreement paving the way for coordination and cooperation in youth affairs. The agreement provides for allocation for scholarships for studies in institutions in the two countries, joint sports and youth training camps, exchange of visits by groups from Tunisia and Jordan and cooperation between the two countries' Olympic committees in youth and sports affairs. The agreement, which was signed by Qassem Ghoshe, secretary-general of the Ministry of Youth, and Mora Daraji, director of physical training in Tunisia, also provides for exchanges of expertise and cooperation in setting up regulations in sports and youth activities.

### Nurses elect association officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Youssef Hassan Khalil was elected Saturday president of Jordanian Nurses Association. A total of 278 nurses took part in the election process at the Professional Associations Complex. Ten nurses were elected as members of the association's board of directors.

### Deputy meets Thiban constituents

MADABA (Petra) — Deputy Abdul Hafiz Allawi Saturday discussed with Thiban district citizens the democratic experiment in Jordan and the district's needs. Allawi said the democratic life in Jordan had made big steps in the field of public freedoms and in following up different issues of interest to the country and the citizens. Allawi called everyone to work in the spirit of collective action to bring this experience to success. The citizens briefed the deputy on their needs, mainly improved telephone services, reopening the Al Walah agricultural station, drilling artesian wells in Al Walah region and improving and opening agricultural roads.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of plastic artists Arji Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nebekneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shehnan Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian artist Shaker Al Jarmal at Alla Art Gallery.
- Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.

### THEATRE

- Arabic puppet play entitled "Fables from my Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- The 1990 American film festival of fantasy and comedy features "Backstage Beanz!" at the Philadelphia Theatre — 8:00 p.m.
- French film entitled "La Mort En Ce Jardin" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- Feature film entitled "The Second Awakening of Christa Kluge" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- Feature film entitled "It's a Wonderful Life" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1979.

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## New hope for Israel

THE RESULT of the vote in the Israeli Knesset Thursday on the motion of no-confidence in Yitzhak Shamir must have come as a great upset to the Israeli prime minister who was hoping against hope to survive the cabinet crisis that he has precipitated over U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks. In this context, the U.S. plan for such talks deserves credit for bringing down the leadership of Shamir who has shown nothing but obstinacy on the need to make peace in the Middle East. And thus a formidable obstacle to peace in the Middle East has hopefully been removed from the political scene in Israel. The next question is whether Shamir's Likud partners would draw the necessary conclusions from the first-ever fall of an Israeli government by a deliberate refusal of the Knesset to grant it a vote of confidence. In a deeply divided country as Israel, a 60-against-55 vote of no confidence in Shamir tells an encouraging story about the Israeli mood and sentiment on the war and peace issue foremost among which is the rejection of Shamir's doctrinaire views against giving up Arab territories by at least half of his countrymen. The coming few days will show more clearly if in fact an entirely new era has been ushered in Israel. If Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, fails to muster enough strength and support to form a new government, then the Israelis would obviously have to go to another national elections which will determine for certain which way the peace process in the Middle East will turn. Hopefully this time around, the Israeli electorate would opt for peace and accommodation with the Palestinians and their other Arab neighbours. There is now an opportunity of a life-time to achieve the elusive goal of peace between Israel and the Arab World and it will be catastrophic if this rare chance is allowed to slip away. And if, as projected, Peres will be able to form the next government, it would be interesting to see how faithful he will be with all the pious talk that he has been uttering of late on peace terms with the Arab side. The Arab World cannot and will not ever forget that successive Israeli governments under the leadership of the Labour Party had damaged many peace prospects with the Arabs for more than two decades.

Perhaps the hard experience that the Labour constituencies had acquired over the past years have contributed to a change of heart. If this will be borne out in the near future by the new chapter in Israeli politics then there is hope that peace could finally come to the Holy Land.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

KING Hussein at a meeting with the British foreign secretary on Thursday renewed a call to the international community to act speedily to achieve peace in the Middle East, warning of the grave danger that could ensue in the absence of security and peace. Al Ra'i daily said on Saturday. The King also called attention to the dangers at a meeting with American journalists based in Britain and also in his interview with Voice of America when he expressed Jordan's determination to remain as a strong fortress defending the Arab Nation, the paper noted. King Hussein, said the paper, has thus reminded the world of the serious situation in the Arab region, calling on all peace-loving nations to take proper moves designed to establish real stability and security in the Middle East. The King, who spoke on behalf of the other members in the Arab Cooperation Council drew attention to the dangers inherent in Jewish immigration into Palestine, noting with satisfaction the European Community's stand which was expressed in a statement on the issue, the paper noted. It said that King Hussein has urged the community to translate this statement into practical steps that can deal with the situation and end Israel's illegal practices designed to uproot the Palestinians from their homeland in order to settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants in Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday calls on the Lower House of Parliament to declare to the public everything about investigations into corruption and economic crimes, subjects which will be debated in the House's Sunday session. Tareq Masarweh says that Parliament should issue a call to all citizens who have information that could shed light on the persons responsible for these crimes to come forward and present them to the people, otherwise crimes will spread and those responsible for corruption will escape all retribution. The writer says whether the session was held in secret or in public, the masses realise too well that corruption was flourishing and crimes were committed, leading to the present difficult situation in Jordan. Parliament will not find written documents signed by those officials in high positions, considered responsible for manipulation, abuse of power, corruption and embezzlement, but can seek public help to reveal the identity of these officials, the writer points out. He says that the sale of gold from the Central Bank of Jordan without proper authorisation, was only one example of mismanagement and corruption which Parliament has to look into and reach a verdict.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Saturday commented on the downfall of the Shamir government and the grueling debates and behind-the-scenes consultations over the formation of a new government probably led by Shimon Peres, the leader of the Labour party. The paper said that Shamir, who continues to serve as prime minister of a transitional government, is expected to behave like a dictator, who could find vengeance for his failures in further atrocities and repressive measures against the Palestinian people. For this reason, the Arab World should realise that it is in for a new phase of Israeli intransigence and total disregard for Arab interests especially with regard to the question of Jewish immigration, the paper noted. It said that Shamir and his aides could now take measures designed to close the door for any peace bid and for any prospect for elections in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that the Arab Nation should not suffice itself with day dreams and should regard Israel as a real threat to Arab existence regardless of who is in power or at the helm of an Israeli government.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Jordan's savings account is in the red

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE DEFICIT in the budget is simply the difference between revenue and expenditure; and deficit is normally funded by borrowing internally or externally. However, nothing should prevent an analyst or a fiscal policy-maker from distinguishing between domestic deficit i.e. before external aid, and final deficit i.e. after foreign aid.

When an analyst calculates deficit before aid, he knows that foreign aid is part of the revenue and should be taken into account upon calculating the final deficit. The distinction between the two is useful to measure domestic fiscal performance, and to compare with previous periods or other countries.

Likewise, the saving in a

given economy is the difference between current income and current expenses. However, there is nothing that should prevent an analyst or an economic policy-maker from calculating domestic savings, i.e. before the external current income and expenses such as aid and remittances are taken into account and then calculating final saving i.e. after taking every thing into account.

In doing so, the analyst knows that current income from abroad should be taken into account before arriving at the final savings. The classification of the savings into domestic and external components is useful to understand the actual situation, and to select the appropriate policies and reach

the right conclusions.

Total consumption in any country, especially in Jordan, should be compared, first to gross domestic product, and second to gross national income, and third to the disposable income. Each one of the three indicators has its own meaning and impact on the economic policy and decision-making. The variation indicates the sensitivity of the situation, the degree of exposure to external factors, and the need to adjust.

Official statistics show that Jordan's total public and private consumption is around 103 per cent of GDP. Capital formation is close to 27 per cent of GDP, and thus the balance of resources was 30 per cent in deficit. In other words, external

resources have to cover not only all our capital formation, but also part of our local consumption.

The official national accounts show that the final savings account in Jordan is positive, and that the savings of the private sector, companies and families, exceed the negative saving of the government as reflected in the budget. However, the official accounts need to be adjusted in a substantial manner. The current expenditure of the Armed Forces in the form of arms acquisition during the last ten years exceed 100 per cent of the official budget of the Armed Forces, an average of JD 300 million a year.

The annual depreciation of the accumulated capital forma-

tion has also to be accounted for as a current expense. It is estimated at JD 135 million a year.

The third adjustment is the loss of exchange on our commitments in foreign exchange, which should also be included as a current expense. It varies from one year to another but could be in the order of JD 500 million a year during the last five years.

The positive saving reflected by the official statistics is not sufficient to cover these three adjustments. This should lead us to conclude that Jordan's net saving during the eighties was not positive as suggested by the published accounts.

During the last ten years, capital formation is supposed to

have reached over JD 4.5 billion. We now discover that our net indebtedness is more than that figure, even before adding short term facilities, private sector external indebtedness, the long term lease payments of the national carrier, the non-resident accounts in the Jordanian banks, and the value of foreign and Arab investments in Jordan in the form of shares, bonds, and real estate.

Taking all these facts into consideration will result in showing that Jordan's savings were actually negative. We did not only finance all our investments by borrowed resources, we also financed part of our current expenditure by loans. Otherwise where did all these loans go if not to finance current expenses?

## Unity turning out to be divisive issue for Germans

By Tom Heneghan

Reuters

BONN — Unity, as the Germans are finding out, can be quite a divisive issue.

In less than four months, people in both German states and almost all political parties have rallied around the East German protesters' battle cry of "Germany — united fatherland".

But the nearer the goal, the more they argue. Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl got so wrapped up in a dispute this month about Poland's western border that he risked losing his own government majority. He finally backed down.

Ibrahim Boehme, head of East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), came here this week to complain that West German conservatives were running a scare campaign against his party.

The fact that both states are furiously campaigning for elections — in the East on Sunday, in the West in December — has added a polemic touch to all politicians' statements about unity.

"Germany seems to be in an almost continual electoral process which is very good for democracy but makes policy-making sometimes a bit complicated," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd observed here last week with a polished understatement.

Beneath the bluster, the debate has crystallised around a few key questions asked with a new twist every week or so.

— What will be united? Both German states now agree only East and West Germany and greater Berlin will be part of the new German state.

German "eastern territories," about one-third of present-day Poland ceded by the wartime allies to Warsaw, should be made permanently Polish in a treaty to be signed after unification, they say.

East Berlin has recognised its Oder-Neisse frontier with Poland since 1950 but Kohl wanted to keep the issue open to please right-wing voters he needs in the December elections.

— How will unification proceed?

Kohl wants East Germany to simply join Bonn's federal republic by subscribing to its constitution in a quick jump towards unity allowed by article 23.

The West German SPD originally denounced this method as a sell-out of East Germany and argued for the more time-consuming path of a new constitution according to article 146. It has since drifted closer to Kohl's plan because it is faster.

But it's East Berlin that decides. Its round table of government and opposition parties

wants a new constitution but the new government could find itself under heavy pressure to go faster, i.e. choose article 23, and work out a transition.

— Will a reunited Germany be a fourth reich?

The four wartime allies — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France — and the two Germanys are discussing ways to avoid this in "two-plus-four" talks started this week.

Moscow wants a neutralised Germany but Bonn and the three Western allies argue the fatherland must be firmly anchored in NATO to keep it from threatening its neighbours.

Switching from the Warsaw Pact to NATO seems hard for East Germans to accept, but most party leaders — under pressure from their West German allies — are coming to back the idea.

— Who will pay for unification?

West Germany, no doubt about it. Bonn will soon introduce its Deutschmark as legal tender in East Germany, a step it is already paying for with shipping exchange rates and higher interest rates on world financial markets.

Kohl's government has earmarked six billion marks (\$3.5 billion) for emergency aid but refused to consider more before a democratic government is in place in East Berlin.

The chancellor rules out tax hikes to make West Germans pay for modernising East Germany's creaking economy, but economists are sceptical about what they see as a campaign promise.

How long will unification take?

A few months? Another year? Change has come so fast that nobody dares predict anything anymore. Sometime in 1991 seems a possibility now that Kohl has ruled out turning West Germany's December elections into pan-German polls.

One option seriously considered a few weeks ago — a blitz merger after East Germany's elections — now seems less likely as both sides discover how complicated unification will be.

— Will Berlin become Germany's capital again?

About three-quarters of all West Germans support a move back to Berlin. East Germans see no reason to move from the city that has always been their capital.

In the mid-1980s, Kohl's government, convinced unity was far off, started building new ministries in Bonn. A "pro-Bonn" lobby has started campaigning against a move to Berlin.

Politicians here now expect a step-by-step move, with key ministries starting to move to Berlin in a year or so but others staying here to use the new buildings and underline the federal character of the new state.

## Deep divisions in Israeli society

By Jack Redden

Reuters

TEL AVIV — The defeat of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government reflects an Israeli society deeply divided over everything from peace with Palestinians to how to define a Jew.

Defenders of the 74-year-old former Mossad agent said he tried to bridge the extremes of right and left. Detractors said he tried to ignore them by not taking any decisions.

"Shamir tried to form a national consensus," the Jerusalem Post wrote in an editorial supporting him following Thursday's parliamentary vote. "But the pull of political polarisation made him enemies everywhere."

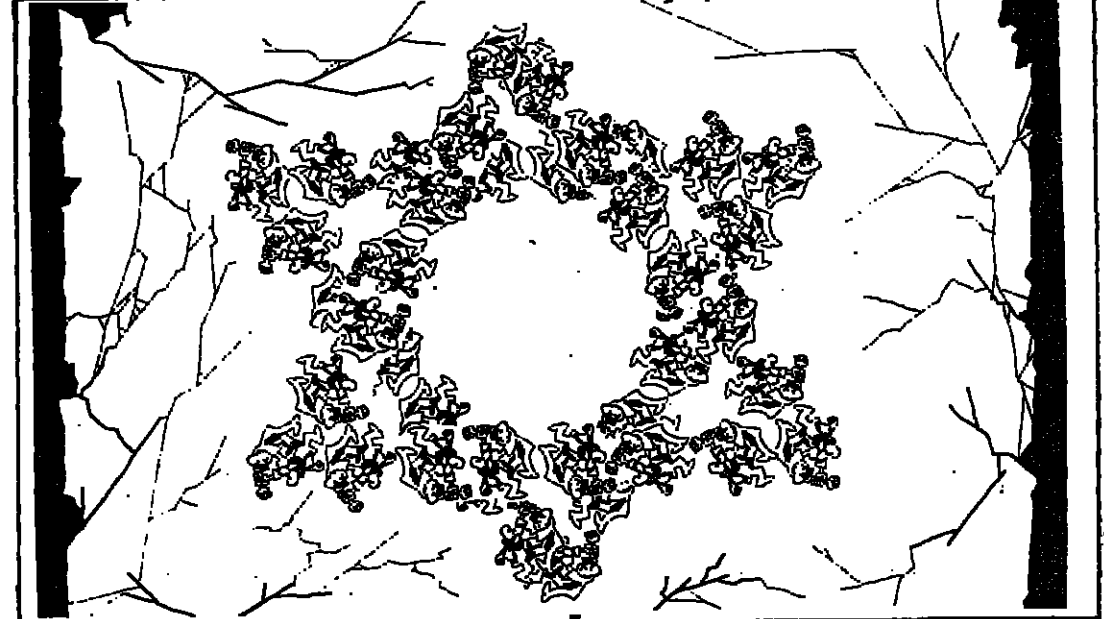
Forming a viable government that can take decisive action will not be easy — whether a narrow coalition led by Shamir's Likud Party or Shimon Peres' Labour Party or a broad one searching for a common denominator.

The decisive split came over attitudes toward Israeli-Palestinian talks between Labour and Likud, the two main parties in the coalition that collapsed after 15 months.

Labour demanded Israel accept a U.S. proposal for talks in Cairo aimed at advancing a peace plan first presented by Shamir 10 months ago. Shamir, after months of delay, finally refused.

Shamir cited two reasons, long-debated points that Labour was willing to ignore start a process that might end the 27-month-long Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

Shamir insisted on excluding the 150,000 Palestinians of



east Jerusalem from any role in negotiations to determine the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He also wanted a guarantee Israel would break off the Cairo talks if the Palestinian delegation even consulted the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Some in Labour believe talking to the PLO is necessary to ever reach peace, while some Likud member oppose talks with Palestinians because they could lead to Israel yielding of the occupied territories.

"A narrow government with confidence is preferable to a government (now) disbanded over disagreements between camps going in different directions," said the independent Masariv daily.

Even a narrow government will not be easy to assemble. Likud holds 40 seats in the parliament and Labour has 39.

The remaining 41 seats in the Knesset are split between 14 parties with opinions across the political spectrum.

The three members of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are Arabs who advocate recognition of the PLO and establishment of a Palestinian state beside Israel.

The two members of the Moledet Party, both Jews, want to see the entire 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories transferred for other countries.

The positions of some parties are so firm that the dovish Labour or the hardline Likud can assume their support. That leaves those with less-fixed views on Palestinians holding the balance of power.

But they have a host of other demands that can make them uncomfortable partners in government. Religious parties particularly have made or broken

governments through the years — including the latest one.

The five members of Agudat Israel voted against Shamir on Thursday not over peace talks, but because he reneged on a promise to support them in the "who is a Jew?" controversy.

Agudat Israel's definition would exclude many members of the American Jewish community, the world's largest. It is one of the few issues that can mobilise U.S. Jewish pressure on the Israeli government.

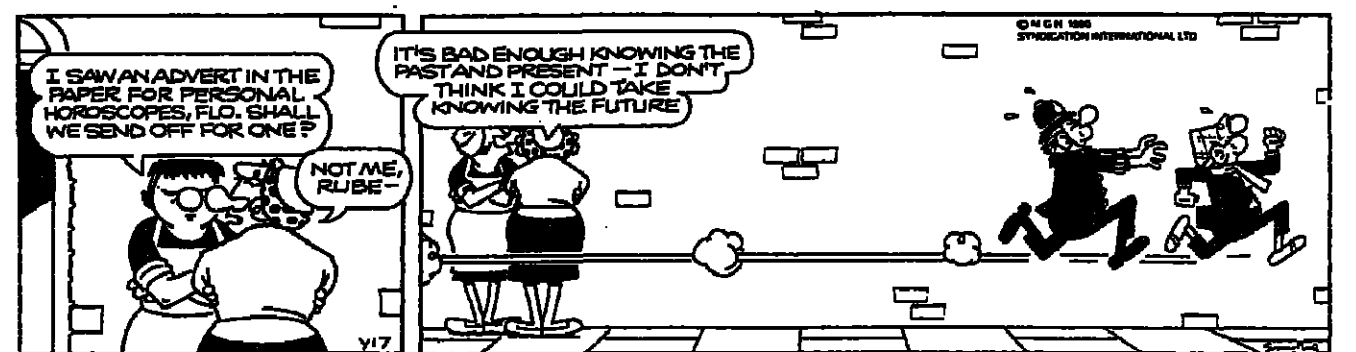
"Consensus may not be inspiring," said the Jerusalem Post, a supporter of the old government. "But a grey consensus is better than a colourful society torn at the seams."

However, Israel seems doomed to choose between a narrow coalition that cannot speak for enough people and a broad government of Labour and Likud paralysed by internal differences.

## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## LETTERS

### Great pleasure

To the Editor

I VISITED Jordan recently, and via your paper, want to say how impressed I was with the hospitality, generosity and courtesy of all the Jordanians I met. From museum attendants, bedouin and policemen, to waiters and taxi drivers, everyone was extremely helpful. Whenever I went people said: "welcome to Jordan" and they really meant it.

It was a great pleasure to be in your country.

Susan Willock  
London,  
England.



LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Sweiss

Une petite répétition

La première session du nouveau Parlement s'achève dans quelques jours. Quels sont les résultats de quatre mois de débats et d'activités? C'est la question, que nombre de Jordaniens vont se poser bientôt. Une grande partie de la population a trop espéré de la Chambre des députés. Peut-être par manque d'expérience de la démocratie durant plus de deux décennies.

Au cours des années précédentes, les problèmes se sont accumulés et certains croyaient que le Parlement aurait le «baton magique», qui peut mettre fin à un jour à l'autre au chaos, à la vie chère, aux difficultés de l'économie nationale et surtout aux dettes extérieures du royaume. Foi espoir, qu'il illustre, il y a quelques jours, une caricature significative parue dans les colonnes d'un confrère arabe. Un chameau, représentant la démocratie, se tient accroupi. Par l'arrière, un Jordannien le charge, ou plutôt le surcharge de gros blocs de pierre. Et l'animal de faire remarquer en souriant: «Mets en encore et je te promets de ne plus me lever».

Qu'a donc concrètement fait le Parlement au cours de la session qui s'achève? A vrai dire, il y aura eu quatre moments forts. D'abord, l'élection du président de la Chambre des députés; puis, la réponse du Parlement au discours du trône; ensuite, les longs débats et le vote de confiance au nouveau gouvernement de Moudar Badrane; enfin, la discussion du budget 1990 de l'Etat. Entre temps, la Chambre a élu ses différentes commissions, qui ont pu examiner un petit nombre de dossiers et de projets de lois.

Certains observateurs estiment que la lenteur, qui a marqué le fonctionnement de la Chambre pendant ces quatre derniers mois, est avant tout imputable à la formation de différents blocs politiques, telles les coalitions démocratique, islamique et indépendante. Et ce d'autant plus, qu'un grand nombre de députés, élus pour la première fois, n'ont qu'une modeste expérience de la tâche parlementaire. Là résiderait l'explication des dialogues de sourds, auxquels ont parfois tourné les discussions au sein de la Chambre.

Première expérience

De fait, la longue absence de vie parlementaire démocratique dans le pays et surtout l'interdiction des partis politiques pendant de tout leur poids dans la situation actuelle. Un seul député ne pourra jamais déchiffrer tous les mystères d'un budget, comprendre et analyser tous les aspects de la crise économique, ou encore trouver tout seul les moyens de s'orienter dans les méandres d'une loi pour pouvoir en juger les qualités, les défauts et les lacunes. Néanmoins, les très longs débats sur le programme gouvernemental ainsi que les discussions ardues sur le



budget ont offert l'occasion d'exposer les points de vue et les revendications des différentes classes sociales sur les dossiers brûlants actuels. Et c'est la première fois dans les annales du Parlement jordanien.

Vaste est le public qui s'est intéressé avec curiosité ou passion aux débats de la fin de l'année dernière. On aurait d'ailleurs tort de croire que toutes les joutes oratoires ont été inutiles ou superflues. Le peuple jordanien démontre une grande soif de démocratie, dont ces séances parlementaires ont constitué une première manifestation.

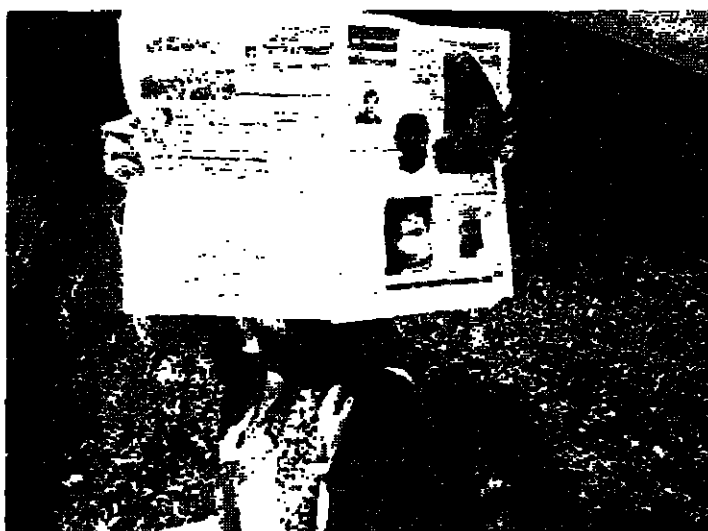
Certes, les discours n'ont pas fait baisser les prix. Ils n'ont pas non plus diminué le fardeau de la dette extérieure du pays. J'étais (et je le suis toujours) parmi ceux, qui pensaient d'emblée que le jeune Parlement ne ferait pas de miracles sur le plan économique. Et surtout pas en quelques mois. Parce que le vrai défi, qu'il lui faut relever, est d'ordre politique. Je considérerai sa tâche accomplie, s'il parvient à instaurer une véritable démocratie dans le royaume, à savoir:

- 1 - Annuler complètement et définitivement les lois martiales et l'état d'urgence.
  - 2 - Accorder aux partis politiques la liberté d'action, conformément au droit constitutionnel dans ce domaine.
  - 3 - Rétablir les libertés d'expression et d'opinion, ainsi que la liberté de la presse.
  - 4 - Permettre aux grands secteurs socio-professionnels, tel le monde enseignant, et aux grands mouvements sociaux, tels les jeunes, les étudiants et les femmes, de former leurs propres organisations syndicales.
- Voilà des projets, à mon avis, réalisables. Pourquoi, en effet, exiger trop de notre toute naissante démocratie? La session parlementaire qui s'achève doit être bien plutôt considérée comme une mise en route, une petite répétition avant les tâches encore plus importantes qui attendent les députés.

"Shihan", le mal aimé de la presse jordanienne

Canard boiteux ou premier journal populaire?

Journal à scandale, feuille de chou ignoble, hebdomadaire du sordide... Les critiques, toutes plus dures les unes que les autres, vont bon train à l'encontre de "Shihan". Notamment de la part de ses concurrents. Ryad Haroub, chirurgien, féru de



Hebdomadaire, «Shihan»? Sans doute pas pour les milliers de lecteurs, qui en achètent quelques 25.000 exemplaires chaque semaine.

"Shihan" n'a pas la cote. Du moins auprès des autres journaux jordaniens, dont les responsables ne font pas dans la dentelle quand on leur demande leur avis sur leur concurrent. Pour eux, l'hebdomadaire de langue arabe est un véritable «torche».

La véhémence des critiques n'a d'égal que l'originalité de "Shihan" dans le paysage de la presse écrite du royaume. «Nous avons choisi de faire du reportage social. C'est notre principale matière, contrairement aux autres journaux, qui se cantonnent le plus souvent dans l'information officielle. Nous voulons être plus près des gens, bien plus à leur écoute que les autres», affirme Ryad Haroub, propriétaire et directeur de la rédaction de l'hebdomadaire.

«Ceux qui nous accusent d'afabuler, n'ont qu'à se renseigner sur les sujets que nous publions», ajoute-t-il, en soulignant que "Shihan" n'a aucune affection particulière pour les faits divers trouillants ou misérables (voir ci-contre). Son ambition, clame-t-il, est de proposer un journal populaire. «Car ça n'existe pas ici».

Expérience unique

Les petites annonces hebdomadaires

«Depuis son lancement en 1984, "Shihan" a ouvert ses colonnes aux petites annonces. Mariages, exclusivement. Une rubrique unique dans la presse locale.

«Jeune femme musulmane, 25 ans, cherche homme, même âge même confession, gagnant plus de 170 dinars par mois. Beau de préférence». Chaque semaine, huit petites annonces de ce genre paraissent dans les pages intérieures de "Shihan". L'expérience est unique en Jordanie et elle rencontre un énorme succès.

«Je reçois entre 20 et 30 lettres par semaine. Chaque jour, le téléphone sonne sans discontinuer pendant les trois heures d'ouverture du service», assure Rawda, responsable de la section «cœur du cœur». Les demandes, ajoute-t-elle, viennent de partout. «On nous écrit beaucoup des pays du Golfe, mais aussi d'Europe ou des Etats-Unis».

Phénomène intéressant à noter: les célibataires en quête de l'âme sœur se partagent également entre les deux sexes. «Ça répond à une demande réelle, estime le patron du journal, Ryad Haroub. Les habitudes sociales arabes ne favorisent en effet guère les rencontres. Pour lui, cette rubrique constitue aussi «un moyen d'aider les gens». Il est vrai que les petites annonces sont gratuites.

«Les réponses sont également nombreuses», poursuit Rawda. Nous arrangerons les rencontres entre les personnes intéressées l'une par l'autre. Notre rôle s'arrête là. La discrétion de la jeune femme, si elle va de soi, ne l'empêche pas d'essayer de suivre les «affaires de cœur» qui lui passent entre les mains. «Chaque mois, vous pouvez être sûr qu'il se produit un à trois mariages grâce à nous».

politique et propriétaire du paria de la presse nationale, rejette le tout et décrit son journal comme la seule presse populaire du royaume. Une presse à succès, qui vient d'obtenir le droit de publier à nouveau à Amman. Après six années de tumulte.

Ryad Haroub

«Les autres nous imiteront bientôt»

Propriétaire et directeur de la rédaction de "Shihan", Ryad Haroub répond à ceux qui accusent son hebdomadaire d'inventer une bonne partie de ses sujets. Ses détracteurs, explique-t-il en "Jourdain", sont d'abord les autres journaux, qui «bientôt» prendront le chemin de la presse populaire.

Le Jourdain: On entend souvent dire que vous n'aimiez publier que les histoires sordides.

Ryad Haroub: C'est un argument cher à nos ennemis, dont la plupart sont d'ailleurs nos concurrents. Ils n'acceptent simplement pas notre succès. Car nous ne racontons pas particulièrement des scandales ou des faits divers sordides. Mais contrairement à eux, qui font de l'information institutionnelle, nous rapportons les faits qui concernent la population. Comme les journaux européens, nous publions ce que nous savons. Qu'y a-t-il de mal là-dedans?

L. J.: Vous détracteurs vous accusez aussi de mentir...

R. H.: Les menteurs, ce sont eux. "Shihan" est le seul journal populaire du pays. Il tranche sur le reste de la presse, qui s'insurge et clame haut et fort que ce que nous écrivons est faux. L'accusation est ridicule. Cette semaine, par exemple, nous parlons d'une femme, emprisonnée pour avoir épousé deux hommes. Je ne l'ai pas inventée. Je l'ai rencontrée à la prison de Jureidich, avec une autorisation des services de police. Ce qui m'intéressait, c'était d'écouter et de comprendre les raisons de son acte. Le plus amusant, c'est que les gens qui se disent «choqués» sont principalement des gens éduqués, qui ont voyagé en France, en Grande-Bretagne, aux Etats-Unis.

Ils ont vu là-bas ce genre de journal sans s'en offusquer plus que ça.

L. J.: N'êtes-vous pas tenté parfois de publier sans trop recueillir vos informations?

R. H.: Non. Si nous ne sommes pas sûrs de notre coup, nous ne publions pas. Nous avons notre éthique et, croyez-moi, nous rejetons beaucoup de sujets, qui nous sont proposés. On en retrouve d'ailleurs certains, parmi les plus farfelus, dans d'autres journaux... Ce qui arrive également, c'est que les gens nous appellent au secours. Et là encore, nous refusons d'écrire, si l'histoire est trop sensible. Ainsi, nous avons dû dire non un jour à une personne, qui est venue nous signaler qu'un de ses voisins abusait sexuellement de sa fille. «Aidez-la», nous a-t-elle demandé. Que pouvions-nous faire?

L. J.: Croyez-vous que vous finirez par être reconnu comme un «bon journal»?

R. H.: M. Sneider, qui est un journaliste arabe renommé, écrit cette semaine dans nos colonnes que "Shihan" est un bon journal et que les autres nous imiteront bientôt. J'en suis moi aussi persuadé. Dans deux ou trois ans, le journalisme populaire sera à la mode. Croyez-moi!

Propos recueillis par A. R.

s'est pas faite attendre. Le 28 décembre 1985, "Shihan" se voyait prié de plier bagages. Interdit de publication en vertu de la loi martiale, le journal s'est installé à Athènes. «En moins de deux mois, nous reprenions notre travail», poursuit Ryad Haroub. Mon équipe travaillait toujours à Amman. Elle envoyait les films des pages en Grèce, où nous imprimions. Chaque édition reprenait ensuite le chemin du pays. «Elle était visée par la censure, puis mise en kiosques». Profitant de son «exil» grec, "Shihan" s'est alors mis à la couleur. Notamment pour redresser une courbe de vente en chute libre. En février 1986, le tirage de l'hebdomadaire culminait à 20.000 exemplaires seulement.

Le titre jordanien n'était pas en route au bout de ses aventures. Il y a trois ans, le ministre de l'Information de l'époque, M. al-Khatib, rappela Ryad Haroub à Amman. «IL m'a demandé de reprendre la publication ici, même sans autorisation, pour calmer la gréve des typographes qui se plaignaient de ne pas avoir assez de travail». Le retour ne fut que temporaire. Dix mois plus tard, le patron de "Shihan" refaisait ses valises, après la publication d'une caricature satirique sur les leaders arabes, particulièrement peu appréciée par... le leader irakien Saddam Hussein.

Après quelques temps passé à nouveau en Grèce, Ryad Haroub opta pour le Liban. «J'y avais obtenu un droit de publication, bien que mon journal ne soit pas égyptien». Entre temps, "Shihan" avait repris un rythme de croisière, avec 40.000 numéros mis en vente chaque semaine. «Les petites annonces, que nous sommes les seuls à proposer [voir ci-dessous] ont joué un rôle important», estime un journaliste de la rédaction.

Le mois dernier, l'odyssée de l'hebdomadaire prenait fin avec son retour «définitif» au royaume. «Cette fois, nous avons obtenu toutes les garanties, y compris royales», insiste Ryad Haroub. Imprimé sur les presses de "Donostour", le journal tire aujourd'hui à 35.000 exemplaires et totalise une diffusion de 25.000. «Dans deux mois, nous en imprimons 50.000» assure son patron.

Un patron rassuré, qui affiche une belle sérénité et de grandes ambitions. «Il y a deux semaines, nous avons créé "Le Drapeau de l'Islam", un hebdo à destination d'un public musulman populaire. Et dans quelques semaines, nous mettrons en kiosque un mensuel pour les jeunes et un autre pour les amateurs de mots croisés, d'échecs...», révèle Ryad Haroub.

Alain Renon.

EN BREF

Partis. Le président du Parlement jordanien a indiqué jeudi dans une interview accordée au journal égyptien "Al-Ahram" que «l'annonce de la constitution de partis politiques [dans le royaume] aura lieu en toute probabilité dans les trois prochains mois». Suleiman Arar a en outre confirmé la prochaine abrogation de l'état d'urgence dans le pays, ajoutant que les lois restreignant les libertés publiques seraient également supprimées. Le chef du gouvernement, Moudar Badrane, avait annoncé le 1er janvier la suppression avant six mois de la loi martiale, en vigueur depuis 1967.

Visites. Jimmy Carter doit quitter Amman aujourd'hui, au terme d'une visite de trois jours en Jordanie. Reçu par les principaux responsables du pays, l'ancien président américain a évoqué avec eux les derniers événements régionaux et l'évolution du processus de paix entre Palestiniens et Israéliens. M. Carter s'envolera aujourd'hui à destination de l'Etat hébreu, dernière étape d'une tournée qu'il a déjà successivement menée au Caire puis à Damas, où il s'est entretenu avec le président Assad. Parrain du traité de paix israélo-égyptien de 1979, l'ancien numéro un américain avait souligné à son départ des Etats-Unis, dimanche dernier, qu'il s'emploierait à explorer les moyens de promouvoir une coopération politique et économique à long terme entre Israël et ses voisins arabes. Par ailleurs, le secrétaire général des Nations Unis, Javier Perez de Cuellar, est attendu le 27 mars à Amman, pour un séjour privé de quatre jours. Ce voyage répond à une invitation du roi Hussein, ont indiqué jeudi les autorités.

Sit-in. Près de 150 personnes, représentant les familles de détenus et de fonctionnaires licenciés pour des raisons politiques, ont organisé mercredi un sit-in devant le siège de la présidence du Conseil des ministres à Amman. Le rassemblement, qui a duré trois heures, a été marqué par une échauffourée entre manifestants et forces de l'ordre, qui ont fait usage de matraques. Une délégation a ensuite été reçue par le ministre de l'Intérieur, qui a promis d'étudier leurs doléances. Salem al-Massa'adeh a affirmé que le gouvernement s'apprête à examiner le cas de ces prisonniers, au nombre de 31 selon lui, «qui ne sont pas classés comme des détenus politiques, mais qui ont été condamnés pour des affaires criminelles liées à des causes politiques». Le ministre a par ailleurs souligné que la réintégration des fonctionnaires licenciés restait «conditionnée par les possibilités financières de l'Etat et par l'existence de postes vacants».

Crise. Le président israélien, Haim Herzog, doit entamer aujourd'hui ses consultations en vue de la formation d'un nouveau cabinet, après la chute, jeudi soir, du gouvernement d'Yitzhak Shamir. Le numéro un du Likoud [droite] a dû s'incliner sur un vote de censure de la Knesset, le Parlement israélien. Sur les 120 députés de la Chambre, 60 ont voté la motion de censure déposée par le Parti travailliste. 55 ont voté contre et 5 élus religieux se sont abstenus. M. Shamir est le premier chef de gouvernement israélien à se voir refuser la confiance de la Knesset depuis la création de l'Etat hébreu. Une gifle politique, qui ne rend cependant pas sa succession évidente. Le Parti travailliste ne dispose en effet que de 39 sièges au Parlement. Si son leader, Shimon Peres, est désigné par le chef de l'Etat, il disposera d'un délai de 21 jours, renouvelable une seule fois, pour constituer un nouveau gouvernement. En cas d'échec, les Israéliens retourneront aux urnes.

Exécution. Le journaliste anglais d'origine iranienne, Farzad Bazoft, condamné à mort pour «espionnage» il y a une semaine à Bagdad, a été exécuté jeudi, malgré les appels à la clémence lancés par Londres. Margaret Thatcher a aussitôt qualifié cette exécution d'«acte de barbarie», qui ne peut qu'inspirer le dégoût des gens civilisés. Le Foreign Office lui a enrobé le pas, en rappelant le jour même son ambassadeur en Irak et en annonçant le renvoi de six étudiants irakiens suivant des cours au ministère de la Défense ainsi que la suspension de toutes les visites ministérielles avec ce pays. Le correspondant de "The Observer" était accusé par Bagdad d'avoir travaillé pour les services de renseignements israéliens et britanniques. Des manifestations ont été organisées hier dans la capitale irakienne pour protester contre l'attitude de Londres.

Gorbatchev président. Mikhail Gorbatchev a été élu mercredi soir premier président de l'URSS. 1.878 des 2.250 députés soviétiques ont pris part au vote à bulletin secret. M. Gorbatchev, qui était le seul candidat en lice, a obtenu 59,2% des voix. Le poste de président avait été introduit quelques jours auparavant dans la constitution soviétique.

Strasbourg. Les députés européens sont parvenus mercredi à un accord sur le lieu de session de leur Parlement, mettant un terme au conflit entre les partisans de Strasbourg et de Bruxelles. Le bureau de l'Assemblée est convenu que les 12 sessions ordinaires annuelles continueront de se tenir dans la ville française, mais que des réunions extraordinaires pourraient être convoquées à Bruxelles.

Mitterrand-Bush. Les présidents français et américain se rencontreront le 19 avril en Floride, a annoncé l'Elysée mercredi. Le président tête-à-tête entre François Mitterrand et George Bush avait eu lieu le 16 décembre aux Antilles et avait porté sur les bouleversements en Europe de l'Est.

Racisme. Les ambassadeurs du Maroc, de Tunisie et d'Algérie en France ont été reçus mercredi à Paris par le Secrétaire général du ministère des Affaires étrangères, François Schœrer, à la suite des agressions racistes, dont ont été victimes le week-end dernier en France de jeunes immigrés. Les trois diplomates ont notamment exprimé leur indignation. Un adolescent marocain a été intentionnellement renversé et tué par un automobiliste français à Roanne, dans le centre du pays, alors qu'il se rendait à Saint-Florentin (Yonne), un restaurant a grièvement blessé deux jeunes frères, marocains eux aussi, dont l'un est décédé mardi soir.

Trou dans l'ozone

Le Pôle Nord serait aussi atteint

Après le Pôle Sud, où un trou en apparaît depuis quelques années dans la couche d'ozone, le Pôle Nord semble à son tour atteint par ce phénomène, selon un communiqué publié vendredi à Washington par la NASA. «Le processus chimique amenant l'appauvrissement de la couche d'ozone dans l'Antarctique est présent dans l'hémisphère Nord et quelques régions de la stratosphère au dessus de de l'Arctique pourraient avoir enregistré des pertes atteignant 17% au cours de l'hiver 1988-1989», a notamment indiqué l'agence spatiale américaine.

Ce constat fait suite à une mission de plusieurs mois, coordonnée par la NASA et réunissant plusieurs instituts scientifiques des Etats-Unis. Les analyses effectuées au cours de cette opération ont ainsi mis en évidence des densités «accrues» de chlore et un taux «plus bas que prévu» d'oxyde d'azote. Deux phénomènes, qui montrent que «l'atmosphère arctique est prête pour l'apparition d'un trou dans la couche d'ozone». Cette dernière protège la surface terrestre des effets nocifs du rayonnement ultra-violet du Soleil. Son amincissement est notamment dû à la propagation dans l'air du fréon, un gaz utilisé dans la fabrication de sprays.

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La boulimie envahit l'Occident

## Les femmes en première ligne

Depuis une vingtaine d'années, la boulimie gagne du terrain en Occident. Principales victimes : les femmes, et plus particulièrement les adolescentes et

les étudiantes. C'est ce qu'ont révélé la semaine dernière à Venise les premières assises médicales consacrées à cette pathologie.

Si vous êtes une femme; plutôt jeune; si vous mettez le nez dans le réfrigérateur toutes les deux heures au moins pour avaler, en secret, solitaire et honteuse, des sucreries ou tout ce qui vous tombe sous la main, ingurgitant allégrement entre 3.500 et 15.000 calories, vous souffrez de boulimie... Et peut-être de bien autre chose encore.

Car, si cette crise de boulimie peut se déclencher à la simple vue d'une boulangerie sur votre chemin, elle est souvent favorisée par des éléments plus graves, telles que la solitude, l'inactivité ou encore l'anxiété. Elle constitue alors un investissement, qui se substitue à l'absence d'autres plaisirs.

« Dans bien des cas, la boulimie ne survient pas de façon isolée. Elle s'insère dans le contexte d'un syndrome psychiatrique plus large, ou témoigne d'une personnalité pathologique », a souligné le professeur Quentin Debray, psychiatre à l'hôpital Necker de Paris, lors des premières assises de l'information médicale, convoquées la semaine dernière à Venise. Une réunion, qui avait pour objectif de faire le point sur une maladie de plus en plus fréquente en Europe et aux Etats-Unis.

Les spécialistes présents à cette rencontre ont notamment relevé que la boulimie s'associe parfois de tentatives de perte de poids. C'est ainsi qu'elle succède chez certaines patientes à une anorexie, et qu'elle entretient en elles la même obsession des kilos en trop ou le désir d'atteindre un poids



inférieur au poids naturel.

La dépression est fréquemment associée au syndrome boulimique, a d'ailleurs rappelé le Pr Debray, tout en soulignant qu'il pouvait se révéler difficile de dire lequel des deux phénomènes précède l'autre. L'ensemble, a-t-il ajouté, survient en réaction à des événements traumatisants: deuil, problèmes sentimentaux et relationnels, échecs professionnels, par exemple.

### Autopunition ou surinvestissement

La boulimie est alors autopunitive, masochiste, et s'inscrit dans une conduite globale de laisser-aller, d'abandon et de fatalisme, qui fait penser à certains alcoolismes, a notamment expliqué le psychiatre français. Pour-

tant, la ruée sur le chocolat, les crèmes, les gâteaux, le pain et autres féculents, affecte aussi une catégorie de femmes au caractère diamétralement opposé. La catégorie des « battantes », des femmes actives, qui ont résolu ment placé leur travail et leurs relations professionnelles au-dessus des loisirs et des plaisirs personnels.

« Il existe [chez ces dernières] un surinvestissement du corps et des apparences, avec le souci d'entretenir une ligne idéale, parfaite. Elles se livrent à des abus divers, dont la boulimie, mais aussi à des excès d'alcool, de psychotropes, de laxatifs et de diurétiques. Elles sont également sujettes à des impulsions, telles que la kleptomanie ou les achats excessifs », a affirmé le Pr Quentin Debray aux cours des débats.

Autre personnalité féminine en

proie à la boulimie: l'histrionique. Autrement dit, la femme en mal d'affirmation d'elle-même, anxieuse et dépendante de son entourage. La nourriture constitue pour elle une sorte de « valeur refuge ».

Paradoxalement, l'idéal de minceur et la recherche à tout prix du corps parfait, tant vantés par les publicitaires occidentaux, figurent certainement en tête des pourvoyeurs de boulimies. « Les conseils diététiques, l'obsession des régimes, les incitations diverses à éviter les sucres et les graisses se mêlent aux publicités pour l'alcool et le tabac et aboutissent à une cacophonie angoissante. Manger n'est plus un plaisir », a regretté le spécialiste français.

Pour parvenir à corriger ce trouble alimentaire, le psychiatre se voit donc obligé de se transformer en diététicien. « Le traitement psychothérapeutique consiste d'abord à mettre en évidence les inconvenients du jeûne, des régimes trop stricts, les méfaits des laxatifs, des diurétiques, et à insister sur l'intérêt d'un rythme alimentaire régulier », a-t-il assuré.

Conseils de bon sens, qu'il semble encore bien difficile à faire entendre. En recrudescence depuis une vingtaine d'années, la boulimie gagne chaque jour du terrain. Selon les chiffres les plus récents, on estime que ce trouble touche actuellement 1,5% de la population féminine mondiale, avec une pointe de 5 à 7% chez les adolescentes et les étudiantes. (D'après agences.)

Pas de revendications féministes en Jordanie

## Forcées à l'ignorance

Fayçal al-Zuraigat s'interrogeait la semaine dernière dans les colonnes du Jourdain sur l'absence de mouvement féministe en Jordanie, incriminant le manque d'engagement, sinon de « sacrifice » des femmes arabes à leur cause. Procès injuste, estime Saeda Kilani, qui insiste sur l'ignorance de leurs droits, dans laquelle elles sont généralement maintenues.

Dès l'enfance, et tout au long de sa vie, la femme arabe mène un combat contre toutes sortes de pressions: idéologiques, politiques, sociales et morales. Elle est tiraillée entre ce qu'elle pense et ce qu'elle fait. Ce qui met le voile sur ses capacités et la rend ignorante de ses droits légaux.

Au point d'ailleurs de l'amener souvent à se dégrader elle-même. Les hommes ne sont en effet pas les seuls à clamer que le droit de divorce, par exemple, est « contradictoire avec la nature féminine » et qu'il doit rester « un droit exclusivement masculin ». Neuf étudiantes sur dix à l'université de Jordanie le pensent, considérant superflu et inutile de revendiquer une liberté qui, selon elles, détruit les relations intimes entre époux.

Cette attitude n'est que le reflet d'une éducation, qui interdit aux femmes de revendiquer en les maintenant dans l'ignorance. Une ignorance de leurs droits légaux et légitimes, qui est à l'origine de l'inertie féministe, bien plus que leur incapacité à lutter ou leur manque de volonté. La famille et l'école mettent l'accent sur la suprématie masculine, opposée à la faiblesse et à l'impotence du sexe féminin. Comment peuvent-elles, dans ces conditions, défendre leur dignité et leurs droits, négligés ou carrément passés sous silence?

Cette réalité prend forme dans l'inconscient de la jeune fille arabe, explique l'Egyptienne Nawal al-Sa'dawi dans ses « Etudes sur la femme et l'homme dans la société arabe ». La première, souligne-t-elle, est traitée dès son enfance comme l'objet faible. On lui inculque qu'elle ne saurait réfléchir ou agir sans l'aide d'un homme, qu'il soit son père, son oncle ou même son petit frère.

En essayant de découvrir les racines de ces convictions régnautes, Sa'dawi assure qu'il faut les attribuer à une éducation et à un enseignement, qui répriment la personnalité et les activités naturelles des jeunes filles. Les lois et les comportements sociaux empêchent également tout développement psychologique et intellectuel libre.

Selon Sa'dawi, la jeune femme arabe est d'emblée confrontée à des valeurs contradictoires. La beauté, le maquillage étant considérés comme des « traits » essentiels de sa personnalité, elle se voit inconsciemment forcée de passer plus de temps devant le miroir que dans les livres ou l'action. Elle pressent que son avenir dépend de la longueur de son nez, de la grandeur de ses yeux et de la beauté de ses lèvres. Préoccupations, qui causent d'énormes troubles psychologiques et génèrent une angoisse permanente... Combien de fem-

mes jordanaises sont passées par la chirurgie esthétique et combien d'autres espèrent avoir les moyens de se faire opérer, persuadées de ne pas pouvoir « réussir » sans être belles? Cette éducation, souligne Sa'dawi, affecte l'ambition des femmes, qui pensent que leurs années d'études et de travail ne sont qu'une période d'attente d'un mari. Il en résulte que l'homme devient toute la vie de la femme.

Un sondage, réalisé par une enseignante de l'université de Jordanie dans trois classes de la faculté de Lettres, a révélé que « toutes » les étudiantes rêvent d'une vie « calmes »: elles veulent se marier et rester à la maison, plutôt que de faire carrière. D'autant plus, sans doute, que la réussite professionnelle rime avec parcours d'obstacles et réprobation sociale permanente.

### Transformées en hommes

Il est bien difficile pour une femme de mener une carrière normale et d'accéder à un poste élevé. « Une « leader » entre en conflit avec les hommes. Cette lutte suscite en elle le besoin d'imiter leurs actes, leurs convictions, et d'abandonner ses objectifs essentiels. C'est pourquoi il est rare de voir une femme à un poste de responsabilité qui défend les droits des femmes », explique Suhair al-Tar, écrivain et journaliste au Sawt al-Shab.

La société arabe n'admet pas la réussite féminine, estime Nawal al-Sa'dawi. Pour maintenir un statut supérieur, la femme doit se « transformer » en homme. Parce que le génie et l'émancipation sont exclusivement masculins. La société appellera donc « homme » une femme brillante.

Seule leur d'espoir: la crise économique, qui pousse les femmes au travail et ne les confine plus au rôle unique de mère. « C'est une opportunité à saisir pour imposer notre existence, constate Suhair al-Tar. L'indépendance financière est primordiale. C'est la première étape de notre libération. Ensuite viennent les lois et enfin le changement psychologique ».

Pour y parvenir, une organisation de femmes est évidemment nécessaire. « Pour faire connaître aux femmes leurs droits », ajoute-t-elle. Un premier pas avait été fait en 1954 avec la création de l'Union des femmes jordanaises, sous l'impulsion d'Emilie Esharat, première femme avocate du royaume. Mais elle avait été dissoute trois ans plus tard. Son rétablissement fait partie des objectifs des femmes, qui luttent pour leurs droits et pour en informer leurs concitoyennes.

Saeda Kilani.

## A L'AFFICHE

### EXIL DANS LA DOULEUR

« Je ne peux pas peindre les bourreaux, je ne peux que les victimes... Je n'aime pas la guerre, mais il faut la faire contre ceux qui la commencent. Personne ne peut prendre les fusils de ceux qui résistent. C'est pour ça que je peins des fusils à la place des bras de ceux qui souffrent en Palestine, mais aussi au Liban... Partout où des hommes absurdes veulent dominer d'autres hommes ».

Né près de Jérusalem en 1934, Ahmad Nawash quitte sa patrie pour Amman en 1948, chassé par la première occupation israélienne. Il a alors 14 ans, il dessine et est déjà obsédé par l'horreur de la guerre et de l'exil. « Je ne peins que mes sentiments, explique-t-il, et ils sont toujours pleins de la souffrance des hommes. Je veux faire sentir la violence de cette douleur en jouant sur les contrastes: une belle femme à côté de la misère d'un homme à quatre têtes [voir « Personnages » N. 18] ou encore un nain enjoué et comique dans la symétrie d'un enfant amputé » (voir « Le Clown Nain » N. 11).

A 25 ans, Ahmad Nawash part pour l'Italie et entre à l'Académie des Beaux Arts de Rome. « C'est là que j'ai découvert les dessins de Paul Klee, précise-t-il. J'ai été passionné par les lignes, les mouvements, les sentiments et la construction de ses œuvres ». En 1964, avant de

revenir en Jordanie pour occuper le poste de professeur de dessin, l'artiste expose pour la première fois. Mais il veut encore « aller à l'école » et, dès qu'il obtient une bourse, repart. D'abord aux Beaux Arts de Bordeaux, en France, pendant un an, puis à Paris, où il étudie la lithographie et la gravure durant deux années.

Ahmad Nawash revient en Jordanie en 1977 et ne se consacre plus qu'à la peinture. Une peinture de prime abord mélancolique, presque douce, avec une palette où dominent les camaïeux ocres et les bleus, comme pour rappeler les couleurs de la Terre. Mais dans l'immobilité irréelle des scènes, une violence sourde habite les corps mutilés et déformés des personnages. « Je veux attirer la conscience des gens au-delà du regard, souligne le peintre. Je voudrais qu'ils restent le plus longtemps possible devant mes toiles, qu'ils ne s'enfuient pas sans connaître, sans comprendre. L'oeil voit d'abord un équilibre, que je construis surtout avec les mains et les visages. S'il s'attarde, il découvre alors le déséquilibre de la souffrance dans une multitude de visages différents ».

F.M.

Les tableaux d'Ahmad Nawash sont mis en vente entre 450 et 1350 dinars.

### EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. La Fondation Shoman présente les œuvres de sept peintres irakiens: Shaker Hassan al-Sa'idi; Salim al-Dabagh; Rafi al-Nassiri; Sa'adi al-Ka'bi; Ali Taleb; Mohammad Mahmud et Ismail Fatah.

Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shoman (Shomaniyat), jusqu'au 4 avril. L'exposition est ouverte tous les jours, sauf le vendredi, de 10h00 à 17h00. Entrée libre.

Peinture. Ahmad Nawash expose ses toiles au centre culturel français. CCF, jusqu'au 8 avril (voir FOCUS). Entrée libre.

Peinture. Autre peintre à présenter ses dernières œuvres cette semaine: Shaker M. Jerney.

Galerie d'art Alla (Premier étage, Al-Jabal Amman), jusqu'au 21 mars, de 9h00 à 13h30 et de 15h00 à 18h00. Entrée libre.

### DIVERS

Soirée littéraire. Quelques lecteurs des prix littéraires français 1989 (Goncourt, Renaudot, Femina...) présentent les livres primés et donnent leur avis.

Centre culturel français, mardi 20 mars à 18h00.

### CONFERENCES

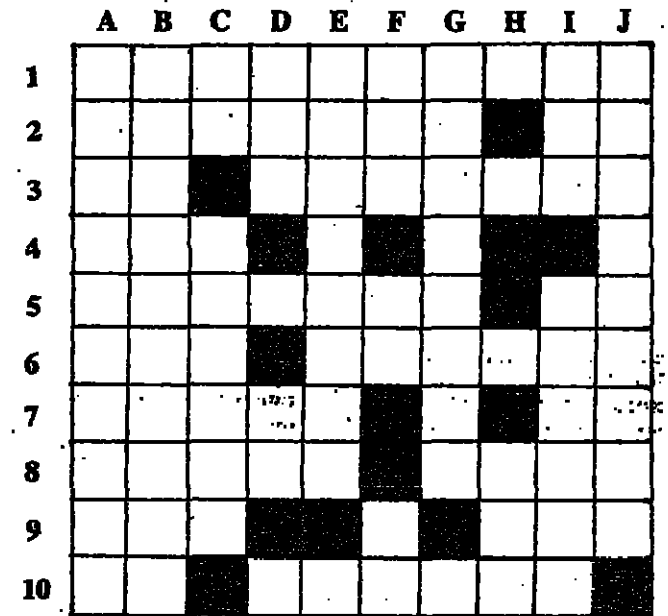
Delta du Nil. Membre de l'Institut allemand d'archéologie, le docteur Thomas von der Way présente les résultats des fouilles, qu'il a entreprises au cœur du delta du Nil en Egypte. Fouilles, qui ont mis à jour les seules structures aujourd'hui connues de peuplement prédynastique dans cette région.

Institut Goethe, samedi 24 mars à 20h00 (en anglais).

## JEU X

### Mots croisés

Par Florence Montiel



Horizontalement.

1: danseuse. 2: prière funéraire; pronom personnel. 3: note; relevée. 4: unit. 5: produits de la volonte; ille. 6: rapide; choquer. 7: on y met les bijoux; Poste de commandement. 8: ils ne comptent presque pas; lieu. 9: adjectif possessif; démonstratif. 10: article arabe; exact.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N.1

Horizontalement.

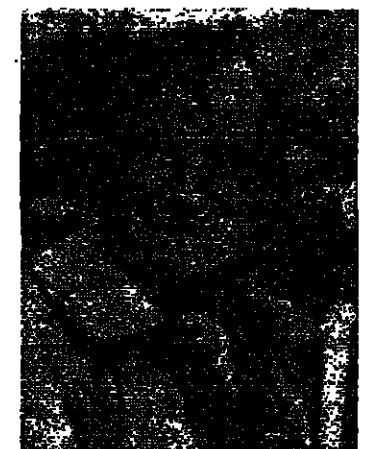
1: parimurges. 2: aspirines. 3: rira! 4: la; nettes. 5: études. 6: mi; ne. 7: équerres. 8: nu; sole; il. 9: te; si; Noël. 10: péserons.

Verticalement.

A: parlement. B: asiatique. C: RPR. D: fia; dressé. E: urine; rois. F: mites; ri. G: en; née. H: rentres; Noël. I: as; ion. J: assisté.

### CINEMA

La Mort en ce jardin, de Luis Bunuel, avec Charles Vanel et Simone Signoret (1956). Aventures dramatiques en Amérique du Sud...



Centre culturel français, dimanche 18 mars à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe). Entrée libre.

It's a wonderful life, de Frank Capra, avec James Stewart, Henry Travers et Donna Reed (1946). Un homme, accablé de soucis, s'apprête à se suicider, estimant sa vie inutile. Un ange lui prouve le contraire en lui montrant ce que serait devenue sa ville s'il n'avait pas existé.

Centre américain, dimanche 18 et jeudi 22 mars à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ghostbusters, présenté dans le cadre du festival de la comédie et du film de science-fiction américains. Une collection de « gags de haute technologie », d'effets spéciaux et de musiques non moins étranges...

Château Philadelphie, lundi 19 mars à 20h00. Entrée libre. Tél: 634144.

Les Nouvelles Souffrances de jeune Werther, d'Eberhard Ippen (1975). Quand un jeune apprenti, en conflit avec son père et ses amis, en butte à un amour malheureux, s'identifie au héros romantique de Goethe... Institut Goethe, mardi 20 mars à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

Sept Morts sur ordonnance, de Jacques Rouffio, avec Michel Piccoli, Gérard Depardieu et Charles Vanel (1975). Le destin tragique de deux médecins dans une ville française de province. Centre culturel français, mercredi 21 mars à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe). Entrée libre.

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 18h30 et 20h00.

Nouveau film, suivi d'un débat, le lundi à 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes le jeudi à 15h00. Programme de la semaine du 18 au 24 mars non communiqué. Renseignements au 603901.

Centre culturel français, mardi 20 mars à 18h00.

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### TELEVISION

#### DIMANCHE

18h00 - Tel Père, Tel Fils: sitcom à la française avec Jacques Balutin.

18h30 - L'Ecole des Fans, émission pour les jeunes, animée par Jacques Martin. Invité: Yves Dutail.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Aujourd'hui en France: magazine culturel.

#### LUNDI

18h00 - Arsène Lupin, avec Jean-Claude Brialy (6e épisode).

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

#### MARDI

18h00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

18h30 - L'Appart: sitcom à la française.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

#### MERCREDI

17h45 - Santé à la Une: documentaire médical, consacré cette semaine aux risques de la transfusion sanguine.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Variétés françaises.

#### JEUDI

18h10 - Tel Père, Tel Fils: 18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons: émission de variétés typiquement françaises, animée par Pascal Sevran.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sciences à la Une: documentaire.

#### VENREDI

17h00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

17h30 - Et Demain Viendra le Jour: film de Jean-Louis Lorenzi, avec Serge Avedikian et Emmanuelle Béart. Une histoire d'amour, qui réunit deux êtres de confessions différentes dans les années 1680, sous le règne de Louis XIV.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Variétés françaises.

#### SAMEDI

17h30 - Champs Elysées: émission de variétés présentée par Michel Drucker. Invité: Pierre Ferret.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sauvage et Beau: documentaire sur les animaux sauvages.

## PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

### A la découverte des "simples"

Ave Egeria,

Le printemps se montre déjà. Il faut que j'en profite pour te montrer une Jordanie différente, qui va se cacher dans deux mois et dormir jusqu'à nos prochains pluies. J'aimerais donc te parler des « simples », ces plantes qui sont très à la mode en Occident et que les Bédouins comme les paysans du monde entier emploient depuis toujours. Leurs noms sont difficiles à traduire, surtout quand ils sont en arabe dialectal, et je demande aux lecteurs de bonne volonté de nous aider. Si possible.

Harmal. On fait brûler la plante sèche pour éloigner le mauvais oeil, soulager les maux de tête et libérer les enfants de la fièvre.

Ghesalan. C'est une belle fleur, mais quand elle est très abondante, elle remplit le cœur des paysans de tristesse: les pluies seront insuffisantes et la récolte mauvaise.

Handhal. Cucurbitacée, dont les fruits sont terriblement amers. On écrase les nombreuses graines contenues dans les fruits et on en fait des cataplasmes pour soulager les douleurs rhumatismales et les sciatiques. Le jus, coulé dans les narines des enfants icteriques, cause une hyperproduction de morve, qui emporte avec elle le mal jaune du foie.

Irtqeh. Les feuillants sèches sont bouillies dans le lait pour apaiser les douleurs post-accouchement. Elles ont aussi un effet galactogène.

Le beurre est une substance qui rancit très vite. Pour le garder, les Bédouins le font cuire et l'« embaument » avec de la cardamome (« osfor »), du curcuma et du handaqaq. Il prend alors une coloration jaune et une odeur très caractéristique. Personnellement, quand j'ai faim, je pense au mensaf, cuisiné avec ce beurre.

On recueille une foule d'herbes et de graines pour faire des tisanes contre tous les bobos: le shah (absinthe) et le ja'deh, qui sont très amers; le qassoum; le shomar barri (fenouil sauvage); le shata; le helbeh; le habanej (camomille); le rejlett-el-hamaneh...

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# Throes and throbs in campus for student union

By Sa'd G. Hattar  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the footsteps of almost every other movement and school of thought in Jordan since the Nov. 8 general elections, university students are also gearing up to establish an organisation of their own, but ideas differ on whether the proposed grouping should be politicised or merely academic.

Attempts are currently being made to form a federation that would eventually encompass separate potential unions for the nearly 45,000 students in the Kingdom's four universities as well as the approximately 30,000 students pursuing higher education at the 55 registered community colleges.

Students of the University of Jordan, where every form of thinking and trend has found a receptive audience over the years, have taken the lead in pursuing what they see as their right to organise and make their voice heard on the national scene.

Irbid-based Yarmouk University, 88 kilometres north of Amman, has also turned into a venue for intensive debate to determine the shape and guidelines of the projected federation.

According to student and administration sources, work towards this goal took an active turn following the Nov. 8 general elections, which produced a "multi-party" Lower House of Parliament for the

first time since 1956, when political parties were allowed to run in elections.

Since the Nov. 8 elections, the University of Jordan, which has 18,000 students, turned into a theatre for heated debate aimed at reaching "a common formula to form a union with political leanings to serve as the nucleus for the national federation," according to students interviewed by the Jordan Times.

Many students expressed their concern, however, that their objective was being undermined by the authorities and the university's administration.

While the deans of student affairs sought to supervise student activities aimed at mustering support for the union, a Cabinet decision called for shelving moves to form any student unions or political parties until after the creation of a "national charter."

An official source told the Jordan Times the Cabinet decided recently to postpone official recognition of student unions until after the formulation of the national charter, which would lay the groundrules and mechanisms for unions and political life in the Kingdom.

Officially banned in 1957, Jordan's hitherto clandestine political parties won limited seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament in the Nov. 8 polls.

On the campus, students'

activities are still underway to form the union which should be governed by "new guidelines to cope with the current democratic changes on the street," according to Yussef Siyam, university of Jordan's dean of student affairs.

Siyam said his department stepped in to participate in and regulate student activities and dialogue so as to build a common ground between the students and the administration in the period before forming the union.

In effect, the projected union is a resurrection of a short-lived federation at the University of Jordan that was formed in 1972 and frozen in 1974 after the "university's administration decided that the union had stepped beyond the legal boundaries drawn in its charter."

Siyam said the defunct union's regulations stipulated "that it shouldn't bear any political, sectarian or religious characteristics."

After the university's administration "decided that the union's activities weren't in line with the set rules, the administration froze it and instead formed 34 academic societies each representing a section of the university's 13 faculties," Siyam added.

Students interviewed by the Jordan Times contended that the societies' activities were "strictly academic and cultural, void of any political colour."

According to Siyam, reactivating the dissolved federation needs a thorough study and amendments should be introduced to the current laws so as to accommodate changes in the Jordanian political arena.

"Since the projected union would be politically active, an official greenlight is required," he said. Furthermore, the union should secure "a majority or a consensus decision by the students," Siyam added.

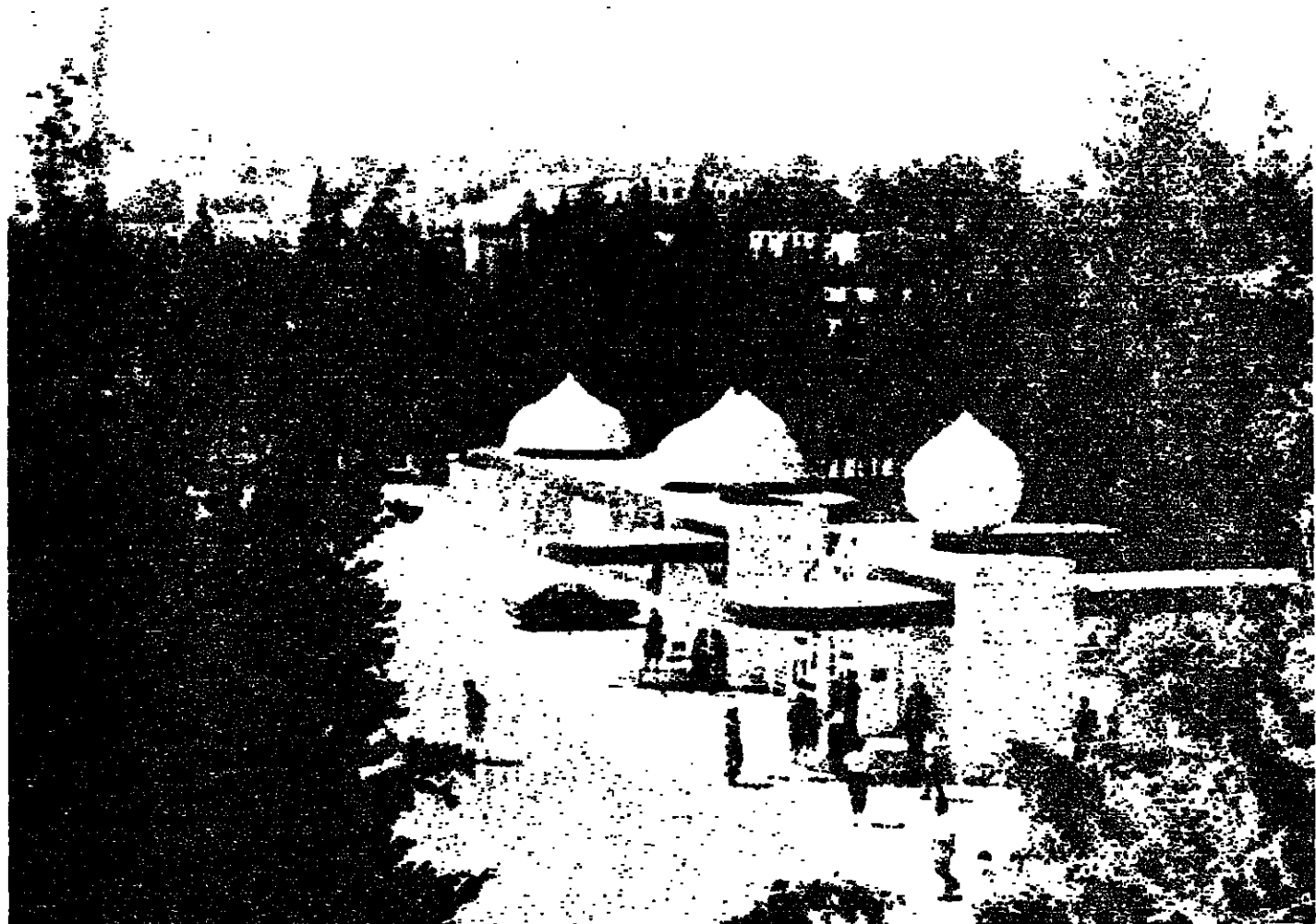
Meanwhile, the political groupings in the Kingdom have gained more and more supporters on the campus, as reflected from the activities taking place.

On Feb. 15, the Samir Rifai auditorium at the University of Jordan was packed with nearly 1,000 students for a symposium to lay down the groundwork for the union and to identify cross sections among politically-active students.

The symposium had a rather Islamist characteristic both in shape and in form. Mostly bearded male students were segregated from predominantly veiled females who heard conflicting views about the shape of the future union.

Supervised by Siyam, the two-hour long activity was part of a series of similar gatherings organised by representatives of the 13 academic committees which are, in effect, politically active.

According to an official source at the university, the



Students of the University of Jordan have taken the lead in striving to set up a union for themselves but the question is: Where is the drawing line between politics and academics?

"actual political map on the campus" is largely a reflection of political groupings in the Lower House, which is dominated by Islamist deputies who occupy a quarter of the seats.

The source, however, said that nearly 75 per cent of the students fall under "the silent majority who have no political affiliations but they support certain groupings according to their respective clout and pub-

lic relations."

Based on reports from various educational institutions, what goes on at the University of Jordan is invariably reflected in almost every other institute of higher learning.

An official source at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) stresses that the university is not opposed "to establishing a general students federation, be-

it on a national or university level."

The source was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as reiterating JUST President Kamel Al Ajlouni's stand that "a legislative framework in preparation for the union" was necessary.

Ajlouni, the source added, advocated two methods for passing the legislation: the first one through official channels

and the second one originating from the university which then gains official recognition from the executive and legislative branches.

Ajlouni expressed his university's readiness to join efforts with the students but said the students should study the project "objectively and through the academic societies which are legally elected by the students."

## Politics delay birth of university professors union

By Mariam M. Shalhin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Controversy has hit efforts to set up the first association for teachers in Jordan even before they could get off the ground, and most observers predict a long, drawn-out struggle before an organisation is formed to represent university academic staff in the Kingdom.

Academic staff of the University of Jordan held two meetings earlier this month; the first one was attended by over 160 professors and lecturers while the second gathering, held last Monday, saw the number increase to 300 but also heralded a severe blow to their moves to set up an organisation.

The main procedural point of contention focused on a prepa-

ratory committee to supervise work towards the formal establishment of an organisation for university teachers. While the first meeting had set up an ad hoc committee, the second meeting named an eight-member panel to do the job. And here is where the controversy was sparked.

During the second meeting, most of the 300 academicians in attendance agreed that they wanted an association. Four said that they were against it and about 60 abstained from indicating what they wanted.

After four hours of discussions and deliberations, most of the supporters of the original ad hoc committee had left. By 8:30 — 9:00 p.m. only 80 people remained in the Samir Rifai auditorium.

The original self-appointed 27-member preparatory com-

mittee had been composed of mainly two blocs, one staunchly pro-establishment and the other mainly of enlightened liberals. More than half of the new eight-member preparatory committee are "Islamists." Not only does the new steering committee reflect a drastic change in the ideological trend of the preparatory committee, it only represents eight out of the university's 13 faculties.

The tug-of-war between ideological trends evident in almost all of Jordan's professional associations and unions has not escaped the academic circles in higher education.

Most of the academicians who spoke to the Jordan Times said that the actual number of professors who were "Islamists" on campus exceeded no more than 60 and thus the domi-

nance of the group in the preparatory committee was "disproportional."

While the so-called traditional pro-establishment segment of the university's faculty was able to find common ground with the self-proclaimed enlightened liberals who are pressing for educational reforms as well as benefits for the teaching staff, many of them fear that no common ground may be found with the Islamists.

"The manner in which the elections were held is an indication of how some elements on campus may guide this whole union that we are proposing," said Dr. Fawaz Toukan, who headed the original steering committee. Toukan, who is viewed by several of his colleagues as extremely pro-establishment, said the election was

"totally illegitimate" and said new elections would be held some time this week.

"Some people manoeuvred the whole meeting last week and that is unacceptable. You can't have elections if the voters aren't there. The whole thing was ridiculous," he said.

The rapporteur of the new steering committee, Dr. Abdul Majeed Al Tel from the Faculty of Agriculture, disagreed, "Those who did not bother to stay till the end of the meeting to vote obviously did not care sufficiently about the union," he said.

What exactly will happen is still unclear, but several things can be concluded from events last week;

— If the academicians are genuinely interested in forming an association they will have to

go to the meetings and actively participate in both the procedural and actual context of this union.

— Different politicised and non-politicised elements will have to learn to find common ground for establishing a union.

— Most importantly, a decision will have to be made as to what the aim of a teachers association will be.

The original ad hoc committee stressed that the "bargaining position" of the academic staff vis-a-vis the administration be strengthened and that a framework for educational reforms and philosophies be introduced.

Several professors who are actively involved in trying to set up a union felt that the lack of political and social consciousness among the university's

faculty was a main reason for the teachers association's "slow start."

Like all other professional associations, teachers unions were banned in the 1970s. According to professors belonging to all ideological groupings, the perception that seven out of 10 applicants to the University of Jordan are rejected by the security service does "nothing for the consciousness on campus."

Those who screamed sabotage last week as the elections were held said that the organisational strength of the Islamists was "one more legacy that the era of martial law left us with."

The Islamists, although relatively weak in actual number, are resented by many because they were allowed to operate

with a relatively free hand, especially in the ministry of education, during the martial law era.

While members of the university's teaching staff are likely to have a "showdown" soon over who will run the teachers' association, on what basis and with what purpose in mind, teachers at other universities in the Kingdom are busy forming their own unions.

"Faculty members at Yarmouk University have approached the university's president and he has given them his blessing to form a union," said one source who asked to remain anonymous. Faculty members at the Jordan University of Science and Technology have also confirmed that a similar process is occurring on their campus.

## Memorial week for witches

Belief in witches has not died out. Modern-day belief runs in cycles. Just after the war, a flood of female refugees without men stoked the embers of witchcraft...now read on with **Edward Kopp** in the columns of the Hamburg weekly *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt*.

**ALICE SCHWARZER**, publisher and editor of the women's magazine *Emma*, usually speaks in headlines, even when she is talking about witches she uses generations centuries old.

Last December she wrote in her magazine: "There is one general cliché surrounding all the women who were hunted down, tortured and killed as witches: they were women without men, and they did what they did in company with other women."

Her article continued: "One of the central offences, indicating that one was dealing with a kind of witch, was the calling into question of male potency, male power, things masculine."

Alice Schwarzer is a leading light in the women's liberation movement and in 1974 the popular daily *Bild Zeitung* declared that she was a witch.

Nevertheless she was not invited to speak at Hamburg's "Witches Memorial Week," the reason being that folklorists and historians wanted to approach this theme at the event with scientific caution.

In the evening discussions there was no wish to give over-hasty support to the position taken up by the women's movement, but to investigate the *Malleus Maleficarum*, published in 1486.

This work allegedly started off witch-hunts in central Europe in the following year in which legal sources claim that 100,000 women were killed, but other estimates put the figure as high as 300,000. And they were not just the victims of male potency.

Men have also tried to influence the authorities to abandon this great witch hunt, men such as the Jesuit Friedrich Spee (1591-1635) from Langenfeld and Johann Kruse (1889-1983).

Johann Kruse, a teacher in Hamburg, was the prime mover behind the collection owned by Hamburg's Ethnological Museum. He was born 100 years ago.

For decades he collected together informative material, which showed that a belief in witches had its effect still.

After his death in 1983 his archives were given to the Museum. They included letters from women victims of persecution and from persecutors, male and female. The victims sought Kruse's help against being condemned as witches; the persecutors supposedly gave "collegial advice."

Elke Allinger, as historian from Berlin, has done an M.R. thesis on the letters in Kruse's collection. She said: "One in four of the women letter-writers complained about the agony she suffered, but the majority regarded Kruse as the famous witches' colleague."

Of the many thousands of letters from the period 1950 to 1974 only just about one hundred have been preserved. It seems that Kruse destroyed the others, fearing that they would be misused.

He offered his suffering correspondents understanding and assistance, and he knew only too well what dicey material he had collected together. He also knew exactly what stimulating

effects such reports and personal accounts would have.

In correspondence with any number of official quarters he tried to establish that no reference should be made to witches in schoolbooks or fairy-tales. He even wanted to go so far as to prohibit all portrayals of witches in the public domain.

He argued that many women, presented in pictures as witches, looked just like many village women, old and bowed down by their labours.

Kruse's collection includes documents dealing with court proceedings and "medicines against witchcraft" which he had come across in a Hamburg chemist's shop in the 1950s.

Only now is it being revealed that these included, for instance, asafoetida, a homeopathic medicament which was used against asthma.

"Kruse did not count on that," said Heidi Staschen. She is one of the initiators of the Hamburg Witches Exhibition, which has been going the rounds of the Federal Republic for the past 12 years. She produced the extensive, informative catalogue for this exhibition.

Johann Kruse also collected publication and hard-to-come-by reports on investigation dealing with the witch cult.

Obviously he knew many "witches" and "witch exorcists" in North Germany and Bavaria by name, as well as just as many victims and perpetrators of this shady profiteering.

How could such a "witches' advocate" be honoured? The Ethnological Museum and Heidi Staschen, attached to the museum administration, planned a series of evening discussions on his work.

It was obvious to them that to honour someone meant doing justice to their work. The disputants tried hard to do this from

the beginning — there was hardly any controversy over this.

Dagmar Unverhau is the archivist at the Schleswig-Holstein state museum in Schloss Gottorf and is soon to take up a post in Berlin's state archives. She questioned Kruse's view of himself as an "explainer." She could not reconcile the act of explaining witchcraft to people with the call for state suppression of the belief in witchcraft.

She also detected another grave lack in Kruse's work. She said: "His idea of witches is geared to the acts of evil women, less on the historical fact of the prosecution of witches on theological grounds."

In other words Kruse had researched the meaning instead of the historical causes of this mass phenomenon.

Commenting on Kruse's work she said: "He did not understand the historical dimension of the witch hunt nor the magical world. He did not regard magical ideas as socially significant." Was Kruse then just a collector of rare items without any feeling for the historical?

Other experts at the Witches Week in Hamburg provided more information about the causes of the witch hunt. Interpretations flew about thick and fast.

Elke Allinger observed that being accused of witchcraft could have an advantage, demolishing relationships with people in village society, although according to customs then current one was obliged to nurture contacts with them. The accusation of witchcraft allowed detachment which was morally frowned upon. Hans-Joska Pintschovius has been conducting field research in rural Hamburg since 1967. He goes after cases of people suffering from a witch's spell with tape-recorder and notebook in hand. Herr Pintschovius has curly hair and dresses in black. He is an

ethnologist for whom the "masquerade of the new witches" does not come up to the serious matter of witches. He has collected masses of material. "Even today people believe that they have a witch's spell on them," he said. If things go wrong, animals and people fall sick and property is damaged people quite regularly begin talking about the "evil people," about witches and magicians.

Modern belief in witchcraft has gone in cycles, frequently related to social change: between 1860 and 1890 with the replacement of aristocratic land ownership and in 1945-1946 with the flood of female refugees without men. The fantasy often soars prompted by envy and resentment.

Hans-Joska Pintschovius believes that such sociological theories are not adequate. There are also psychological factors.

People were often arrested on being accused of having dealings with the Devil, "people who were not integrated into the manners and customs of the location."

For this reason Herr Pintschovius frequently locates belief in witches in small towns.

He has tracked down not only victims but also persecutors. These women magicians, whom he knows and who describe themselves in this manner, fulfill two preconditions, which could astonish Alice Schwarzer: they are married and have acquired their knowledge from another person, mainly from a person of the opposite sex.

It is indeed quite a different matter admitting that one is someone who dabbles in the supernatural to being accused of being a witch. But their are examples of both, the acknowledge practitioner and the victim, even today.

Do women need the myth of the witch as the stronger, cleverer, wiser women? There is always a propensity to throw into the

scales the argument that women have been bounded to death because of their special abilities, knowing how to perform abortions, their knowledge of healing and how to trick men.

Women, who liked to believe in this "special knowledge," contradict historians, who only take the facts into consideration. Dagmar Greiss from the women's group in Bad Oldesloe, said: "Even today many women are victims, they are dependent and violated, just like the witches of old." But there is little historical evidence for this argument.

During the discussion in the Hamburg Witches Memorial Week women members of the audience made the point that anyone who raised up witches as an example "emphasised too much the victim myth women constantly had to deal with."

The work on historical sources and unhistorical emancipation emotion were irreconcilable with one another.

A man asked: "Who is helped by source research. Isn't it enough to listen to one's own inner sources?"

Dagmar Unverhau said that the witch hunt showed itself to be an instrument for suppression with considerable possibilities for development, and warned against explanations of the cause of witch hunts which were too plausible. Her warning was only moderately successful.

Dagmar Greiss said that the two authors of the famous witch-hunters' manual, *Malleus Maleficarum*, Jacob Sprenger and Heinrich Krämer, were Dominican monks and sexually inhibited. That was how the mass hysteria came about.

Hans-Joska Pintschovius had a simple answer to such (false) conclusions. He said: "Since the Reformation both churchmen and state officials have sat in



Goya's Linda Maestra!

judgment on witches. It was not only a church matter."

Generally speaking witches are only a model for the modern women's liberation movement if one requirement is met: women who, as witches, were tortured, put to the stake and killed, were particularly independent, particularly knowing women.

The true was, however, as Heidi Staschen said, that "the persecuted victims were neither strong, courageous nor even emancipated. They were Christian women, women just like you

or me."

The sole undisputed feature of the witch was her role as victim. The witch, taken up by the women's liberation movement since 1977, is a dubious symbol.

She had one wish for feminist friends and visitors to the Witches Week: "I hope that we women do not need this myth of the witch as a stronger, more courageous friends early example of the emancipated woman." If Alice Schwarzer had heard this there would have been plenty of discussion.



## Brazil announces emergency measures

BRASILIA (AP) — New President Fernando Collor de Mello Friday announced a sweeping emergency package of economic reforms, including a price freeze, a new currency, and jail terms for "economic crimes."

"Brazilians want serious action now," Collor de Mello said during a nationally televised cabinet meeting on his first full day in office.

The 40-year-old president, who took office Thursday as Brazil's first popularly elected leader in 29 years, faces a 2.700 per cent annual inflation rate and a \$31 billion budget deficit.

"This year's federal deficit will be zero..." he pledged.

"There's no way to knock down inflation if the government spends more than it takes in," said Collor de Mello, who has already announced that some government ministries would be dissolved and that there would be dismissals among the 700,000 federal employees.

Collor de Mello froze prices for 30 days and said salaries in March will be adjusted to the February inflation rate, which was 73 per cent. Inflation targets for April will be reduced to 40 per cent, and salaries and prices will be adjusted by a government-set amount, a system the president called "free fixation."

TV Globo, Brazil's largest commercial network, reported the salary and price hikes would be 40 per cent in April and 20 per cent in May.

The president announced a return of the cruzeiro currency, which replaces the 14-month-old new cruzeiro and will be the country's fourth currency in four years. The cruzeiro will be equal to one new cruzeiro, which is now worth about 2.5 cents officially but about half that on the street.

At an afternoon press conference, Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello said withdrawals from savings accounts would be limited to the equivalent of about \$1,200. Those with greater savings will only be allowed to get their money in 18 months, during which time it will earn six per cent interest plus inflation.

The same rules will apply to the so-called overnight market — short-term deposits the government and avert chaos in Brazil's \$350 billion economy, eighth largest in the West.

After making the announcement, Collor de Mello delivered copies of his plan to congress.

Most of the economic reforms were sent to congress as "provisional measures," which take effect immediately but can be voted down within 30 days. They also become null if congress fails to call a vote within the same period.

Collor de Mello declared a new law against "economic abuses," such as withholding goods from the market, financial speculation and illegal price hikes.

### Fooling people

"Whoever tries to cheat and fool the people will be jailed," he said, adding that store owners and managers found guilty of economic crimes will face five-year jail terms.

Outlawed by Collor de Mello were numbered, interest-bearing bank accounts and certificates of deposits. Financial institutions must use to finance its deficit. The market has paid interest rates of up to 100 per cent a month, but withdrawals will be limited to about \$600, she said. Cardoso de Mello called the new measures "tough and wide-ranging" and said they were necessary to head off hyperinflation. The minister said the frozen deposits would affect few Brazilians.

"Walk down the street, talk to your maid or a taxi driver, and you'll find they don't have money in the overnight market," she said.

But "my sensation is that workers have lost. If he wants to take on the banks, fine, but we've got nothing else to give," said Luis Antonio Medeiros, president of the powerful Sao Paulo-based metalworkers union.

"The plan will open up the economy, force strong doses of competition, and eliminate cartels that monopolize prices," countered Joaquim Eloy de Toledo, an economics professor at the University of Sao Paulo.

Collor de Mello said the measures would bring down inflation

here have advertised such accounts on television and in newspapers, with the slogan, "it's just like being in Switzerland."

Other promised new measures included:

— New taxes on the personal fortunes and on capital gains from trading in stocks and gold.

— The suspension of \$2.2 billion in annual federal subsidies to private enterprise, that go to everyone from exporters to the computer industry.

— The dismissals of some of Brazil's 700,000 federal employees.

— Elimination of government bureaucracy surrounding imports to Brazil and an ill-defined "floating exchange rate" relative to the U.S. dollar for certain importers.

— Privatisation of some of Brazil's 188 state-owned companies, many of which operate at a loss. They have total debts of about \$62 billion.

Details about new tax rates, which would be fixed, and what firms would be privatised were not provided.

On Thursday, Collor de Mello signed laws that reduced the number of government ministries from 25 to 12 and ordered the sale of government-owned mansions and cars.

He also ordered 24 federal agencies and companies dissolved, including the Brazilian Institute of Coffee, which controls all coffee trade.

## AFM boom lifts National Portfolio Securities Company

By a Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — The boom in trading that the Amman Financial Market (AFM) registered last year had a direct positive impact on the operations of the National Portfolio Securities (NPS) Company which has reported an annual turnover of share and bond trading of JD 45,087,689 during 1989 compared to JD 12,685,549 during 1988.

According to the NPS' annual report, AFM floor trading amounted to JD 367 million of which 65.4 per cent were industrial shares, 23.6 per cent financial, 8.9 per cent services and 2.1 per cent insurance shares.

NPS captured 38 per cent of the financial sector and 37 per cent of the industrial sector. The remainder went to insurance shares (eight per cent), service companies (seven per cent) and government and other public corporation bonds (10 per cent).

For its own portfolio, NPS traded shares and bonds worth JD 19,481,873 compared to only JD 5,345,725 in the previous year. The company's trading on the account of clients amounted to JD 25,605,817 compared to JD 7,339,824 during 1988.

The company netted JD 570,286 from trading for its own portfolio and also earned JD 124,889 in commissions from its clients but the net income after various general and administrative expenses stood at JD 545,453 for the year ending Dec. 31, 1989.

However, due to amortisation of losses amounting to JD 443,000 during the last four years, the net profit was down by JD 67,893 resulting in a JD 477,560 profit of which JD 225,000 was allocated for dividends to be distributed among the shareholders.

A further JD 109,090 was transferred to the voluntary reserves while JD 54,545 was added to the obligatory or legal reserves leaving a retained earnings of JD 25,124 after some other minor allocations.

At the end of the 1989, the balance sheet showed that NPS held shares and bonds in its portfolio worth JD 2,287,621 compared to JD 1,656,359 in the previous year. The figures, reflecting the market price or cost whichever is lowest, translate into JD 2,373,628 and JD 1,674,186 respectively at the market price on Dec. 31, 1989.

### Weekly Amman Financial Market Trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Mar. 10, '90 and ending Wednesday Mar. 14, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	31115	114412	3.470	3.650	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	28416	44793	1.560	1.590	1,000
Housing Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	10000	33500	3.380	3.350	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	108	1579	14.650	14.620	5,000
Arab Bank	2190	56955	254.500	254.000	10,000
Jordan National Bank	10886	27821	2.570	2.550	1,000
Arab Banking Corporation Bank (Jordan)	53464	13860	2.860	2.410	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	1342	4621	3.590	3.450	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	5060	10348	2.300	2,000	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	6287	14604	2.380	2.270	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	1,000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan French Insurance	18594	30172	1.640	1.640	1,000
Jordan Insurance	466	1142	2.450	2.450	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	500	725	1.460	1.450	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	800	1344	1.700	1.680	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphus Insurance	3730	6341	1.700	1.700	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	1102	1272	1.220	1.070	1,000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Arab Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Aliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	3880	4087	1.140	1.050	1,000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	126399	99274	0.820	0.770	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	812082	423913	0.560	0.520	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	95533	57670	0.650	0.610	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	—	—	—	—	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	3564	4937	1.380	1.390	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	—	—	—	—	1,000
Irish District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	53173	82152	1.540	1.560	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	221100	145942	0.710	0.650	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	10500	26991	2.580	2.600	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	800	1600	2.000	2.000	1,000
Jordan Dairy	16464	25286	1.540	1.500	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	11735	49384	4.420	4.120	1,000
Jordan Medical Corporation	10918	10811	0.930	0.970	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	23100	70802	3.130	3.040	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	262	1204	4.600	4.600	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intai)	6378	14234	2.282	2.190	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1942	16543	8.500	8.500	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	33930	48118	1.770	1.680	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Confectionery Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	3500	10475	2.920	3.000	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	28506	84691	2.950	2.990	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	1700	4750	2.750	2.780	1,000
Chemical Industries	16550	12771	3.030	2.790	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	9150	15855	1.740	1.680	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	6050	26447	4.350	4.400	1,000
National Steel Industries	1100	2777	2.530	2.480	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	9561	56443	5.950	5.900	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4322	35060	8.120	8.090	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Industries	20606	24160	1.290	1.140	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	300	216	0.730	0.720	1,000
Arab Investment and International Trade	200762	155502	0.810	0.790	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	33000	35468	1.250	1.030	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	250	775	3.250	3.100	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	230	2103	9.420	8.910	1,000
Jordan Sawwood Industries	224387	83772	3.540	3.450	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Wooden Industries	170	272	1.600	1.600	1,000
Jordan Tanning	772	1915	2.480	2.480	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	502	3055	4.100	4.080	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	201	3618	18.000	18,000	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	49496	101169	2.120	1.980	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	14500	69262	5.570	4.740	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	15400	37402	2.560	2.480	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	28100	79659	2.880	2.800	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	128778	139040	1.070	1.070	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	63750	75370	1.290	1.160	1,000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	108864	60479	0.590	0.560	1,000
National Quarry	4350	5845	1.370	1.350	1,000
Arab Potash	20	50	2.500	2.500	1,000
Grand total	2,568,893	3,957,973			

## Oman calls for GCC-EC joint marketing authority

MUSCAT (AP) — Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi called on the European Community (EC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Saturday to set up a joint body to direct petrochemicals manufacturing and marketing.

Alawi made the call when he inaugurated a meeting of EC and GCC foreign ministers in Muscat, the first since the EC Commission last December sanctioned a free trade pact with the six-nation GCC.

Alawi stressed that greater effort was needed to overcome political and economic problems.

He is the current chairman of the GCC, which groups Oman

with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

"We consider the EC states most important trade partners for the GCC... and for this we seek mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

He said that the growing cooperation between the two communities has led to "a feeling of optimism and urges us to more contacts and dialogue."

The GCC supplies roughly 40 per cent of Western Europe's energy needs and has an estimated trade with the EC countries of some \$20 billion a year.

The foreign ministers of Ireland, current chairman of the EC,

France, Britain, the Netherlands, Greece and Denmark. West Germany's minister of state for foreign affairs, and representatives from the rest of the 12-member EC were attending the Muscat conference.

Petrochemicals has been a thorny issue in cooperation between the two groups.

The pro-Western Gulf countries found their attempts to break away from dependence on oil exports by moving into oil-related industries have run up against EC tariffs.

Their concern about EC protectionism has heightened with the approach of a united Europe in 1992.

## Government figures show U.S. economy cooling

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy cooled off in February from its fast January pace, with wholesale inflation and housing starts both slowing sharply in the month, according to government reports released Friday.

The producer price index, which measures prices at the wholesale level, was unchanged last month after a steep 1.3 per cent January gain, the Department of Labour said.

The Commerce Department reported that new home construction fell 7.0 per cent in February after climbing by 24.7 per cent in January when warm weather boosted building activity.

Neither of the reports came as a surprise to economists, who noted that special factors drove up prices and housing starts in January.

Separately, the Federal Reserve said that industrial produc-

tion rose 0.6 per cent in February, slightly below the 0.7 per cent expected by economists. Factories operated at 82.3 per cent of capacity, up from a revised 82.0 per cent in January.

Stocks and bonds both rose on the signs of restrained economic growth.

The low February wholesale inflation stemmed from falling petroleum costs, although the decline in energy costs was offset by more expensive food, the Labour Department said.

The department noted a rise in the so-called core rate of inflation, which subtracts the volatile food and energy figures. It rose 0.4 per cent compared with a 0.1 per cent January advance.

The February index, which measures the cost of goods at all stages of production, was close to Wall Street economists' expectations for unchanged results. Excluding food and energy, they

anticipated a 0.3 per cent gain.

Petrol prices, a major component of the index, reversed their sharp advances of recent months to fall 2.3 per cent in February after a 16.7 per cent January gain.

Food prices continued their upward march but at a slower pace than in recent months, climbing 0.9 per cent in February following a stiff 2.1 per cent January gain after the December cold snap.

Single-family home starts rose modestly last month. But apartment building slumped sharply, bringing overall housing starts down to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.48 million units in February from a 1.59 million rate in January.

Last month's drop was less abrupt than forecast by economists, who expected the seasonally adjusted annual rate of starts to fall to 1.39 million. The department previously reported January housing starts had risen by a record 29.6 per cent.

## Failure rate stands high among Soviet joint ventures

MOSCOW (R) — More than 1,000 foreign firms have created formal joint ventures with Soviet partners but many of the enterprises have failed to start up and some have gone bankrupt, the official TASS news agency has said.

TASS said the finance ministry has registered 1,284 joint ventures, with a total charter capital of more than \$3 billion.

Half of the Western investment in joint ventures went into light industry and service establishments, it said. Another 20 per cent was invested in industrial services such as marketing, engineering and maintenance and about 15 per cent was committed to heavy industry and machine tools.

But TASS said the ventures were frequently plagued by legal, financial and organisational problems.

"The number of joint enterprises that have not begun operations is very high. There are cases when they go bankrupt or dissolve," TASS said.

The report gave no details of how much Western capital was

actually at work or how many ventures had failed.

The growing trend toward joint ventures, encouraged by recent changes in regulations governing foreign firms, is aimed at improving the Soviet Union's weak technological base. The ventures are also designed to produce competitive goods for world markets.

Western commercial attaches say the Soviet business climate remains hazardous for all but the biggest and most patient foreign partners.

"Because of the shortage of hard currency, the opportunities for smaller firms are limited," said one Western diplomat who

follows bilateral trade issues.

He said small and medium-sized companies could not afford long delays in payment or were unable to engage in complex counter trade or barter deals.

"Often items offered (in barter) are out of a small firm's field," he said. Only large multinationals and conglomerates could afford to sell finished clothing, for example, and take metal ore or petroleum products in exchange.

Complicating the picture, said analysts here, was the fact that those Soviet items easily sold on world markets were already supplying Moscow with much-needed hard currency.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 18, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation



## Missouri had the name Iowa had the game

NEW YORK (AP) — Maurice Newby hit a 3-pointer with one second left Friday to give Northern Iowa a shocking 74-71 victory over 11th-ranked Missouri in the opening round of the U.S. College Basketball Championship's southeast regional play-off.

It was the biggest upset so far in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's annual play-off tournament — a 14th-seeded team beating a third-seeded squad from the big eight, one of the nation's elite leagues. A team with no NCAA tournament experience beating a team that was ranked no. 1 in the nation before a late-season slump.

"Words can't describe what this means to be, to the players, to the school and the community," said Northern Iowa Coach Eldon Miller, who took Western Michigan and Ohio State to the NCAA tournament earlier in his career.

Missouri (26-6) rallied from a 12-point deficit to tie the score at 71 on a three-point play by Nathan Buntin with 29 seconds left.

But Northern Iowa (23-8) called time to set up a final play, and Newby worked himself free on the left wing for the winning 20-footer.

"I was only going to take the shot if I was open," said Newby, who

finished with nine points. "I was open, and I didn't rush it."

The panthers' next opponent will be Minnesota, which beat Texas-El Paso 64-61 in overtime. Syracuse, a 70-48 winner over Coppin state, will play the Virginia-Notre Dame winner in another second-round southeast game.

In other opening-round games, Duke routed Richmond 81-46. St. John's trounced Temple 81-45 and UCLA beat Alabama-Birmingham 68-56 in the East; Georgetown beat Texas Southern 70-52, Xavier, Ohio, downed Kansas State 87-79 and Texas defeated Georgia 100-88 in the Midwest and Arizona beat South Florida 79-67 and Alabama eliminated Colorado State 71-54 in the West.

The second-round matchups are Duke-St. John's, Georgetown-Xavier and Arizona-Alabama. UCLA plays the winner of Kansas-Robert Morris and Texas meets the Purdue-Northeast Louisiana winner.

Missouri (26-6) lost four of its last five games, including an opening-round loss to Colorado in the big eight tournament.

"We were flat today," said Missouri coach Norm Stewart, who started his career at Northern Iowa. "But it doesn't take anything away from their effort."

## Bugno wins Italian classic

SAN REMO (AP) — Italy's Gianni Bugno Saturday edged West German Rolf Goltz by a new second following a grueling 294-kilometre-race to capture the Milan-to-San Remo road cycling classic — the opening event of the 1990 World Cup.

By capturing the most prestigious victory of his career, Bugno, 26, scored the first win by an Italian cyclist in this Riviera resort since Francesco Moser's triumph in 1984.

Frenchman Gilles Delion out-sprinted Italians Moreno Argentin and Maurizio Fondriest for third place at the finish line.

France's Laurent Fignon, who was seeking an unprecedented third consecutive victory in the Italian race, was among a bunch of original race favorites who withdrew after 185 kilometres, while trailing the leaders by nearly 15 minutes.

Fignon, world champion Greg Lemond of the United States, Irishman Sean Kelly, Gert Jan Theunisse of the Netherlands and American Andy Hampsten were taken by surprise by a sudden attack by a group of about 120 cyclists, 20 kilometres after the start from Milan.

## Austrian wins ski jump trophy

RAUFOSS, Norway (AP) — Klaus Sulzenbacher of Austria clinched the season's World Cup trophy in the Nordic combination of ski jumping and 15-kilometre cross-country ski racing Friday night.

The national NTB news agency reported that he locked it up after Soviet Allar, the only competitor with a reach shot at the title, fell ill and withdrew from the jumping competition in Loeberbakken.

Sulzenbacher already had assembled 156 points in previous world cup events before the 15-kilometre final event, which was scheduled for Saturday.

Levandi finished at 135 points as world cup runnerup. Knut Tore Apeland and Fred Boerre Lundberg, both of Norway, had 87 and 84 points. They were thus without any chance to overtake Sulzenbacher or Levandi regardless of their final placings Saturday.

## Women's downhill postponed

ARE, Sweden (AP) — The women's World Cup Downhill final was postponed Saturday because of poor conditions of the course. The race was tentatively rescheduled in Switzerland next week.

The chairman of the International Ski Federation (FIS) Marc Hodler, and Heinz Kreeck, the coordinator of the women's world cup — plus members of the executive committee — met and decided to postpone the ninth and final downhill of the season to next week. Zinal in Switzerland was chosen as a possible new site.

"We decided that under all circumstances the final downhill must be held because there are still five competitors who can win the title," the FIS chairman said. He added that Petra Kronberger, the 21-year-old world cup overall leader from Austria, will receive the cup here Sunday if her lead over second-placed Anita Wachter is 25 points or more after Sunday's slalom race.

The organisers said the women's race was cancelled because course conditions were too poor for two races. Men's downhill started according to schedule later Saturday.

## Algeria wins African cup soccer title

ALGIERS (R) — A superb first half goal from Cherif Oudjani gave Algeria their first African Nations Cup soccer title Friday when they beat Nigeria 1-0 before 80,000 jubilant fans.

Oudjani, who plays for French club Sochaux, struck seven minutes before halftime when he picked up a ball just outside the penalty area, turned and lashed an unstoppable right-footer into the top right corner of the Nigerian goal.

His effort was a welcome oasis in a disappointing final in which neither side proved capable of creating chances — in sharp contrast to the group match between the two sides two weeks earlier in the same July 5th stadium when Algeria trounced the Nigerians 5-1.

Algeria, nevertheless, fully deserved the victory, controlling the match despite a slow start in which they allowed Nigeria to get on top only for the first 10 or 15 minutes.

But the Algerian midfield, tidily marshalled by the busy Cherif El Ouazzani, was soon in charge as an overwhelmed Nigeria seemed to limit their ambitions to preventing another rout.

The result was a suitable revenge for Algeria who had appeared in only one previous Nations Cup final — losing 3-0 in 1980 to Nigeria in Lagos.

The match was also a fitting end to the international career of 31-year-old Algerian star Rabah Madjer, playing in his fifth Nations Cup and the only survivor from the 1980 final.

If the Porto striker was not at his brilliant best, he at least managed to crown his great career with a title which had seemed destined to elude his country.

Nigeria, who have played in four African finals in the last 10 years but who have not won since 1980, fielded a young team in which exciting striker Rasheed Yekini lacked the strength he needed to worry the Algerian back four.

## 13-year-old scores straight-set victory

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Thirteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who finished second in her first pro tournament last week, scored a straight-set victory Friday in the opening round of the International Players Championships.

Capriati was a 7-5, 6-3 winner against fellow Floridian Luanne Spadea, a 17-year-old ranked no. 202.

Winners in men's singles on the opening day of the \$2.5 million tournament included Jakob Hlasek and Amos Mansdorf. Seeded players received first-round byes and begin competition Saturday in the 10-day event, which has attracted 17 of the top 20 men and 11 of the top 20 women.

With most big-name players missing from the schedule, Capriati was again the centre of attention for reporters and photographers. The child prodigy said she has tried to ignore the media blitz.

"It's not easy, but sometimes I just have to, like block it out and

not think about it," she said. Friends and family "try to calm me down," she added.

Expectations for Capriati, already high because of her success in juniors tournaments, rose as she won her first five matches in the Virginia Slims of Florida before losing to Gabriela Sabatini in Sunday's finals.

Capriati, who has lost just three sets in her seven professional matches, needed only 79 minutes to beat Spadea.

"I didn't play as well as I'd like to," Capriati said. "I was making a lot of unforced errors."

Capriati and Spadea are both from the Fort Lauderdale area, but they had never played each other before and had practised together only once.

"She's an extraordinary player," Spadea said. "But there are a lot of other girls out there who have as much potential as she does."

"The media has been hyping her up like she's a goddess. She's a human being, just like we are."

Capriati's forehead is be-

weaker groundstroke, but it finished off Spadea in several games.

Capriati hit a forehand winner to break serve for a 6-5 lead in the first set. After holding serve to close out the set, she broke again with a forehand winner to lead the second set 1-0. A running forehand cross-court for another winner put her up 2-0.

Spadea, trailing 4-3, had a chance to get back in the match when Capriati lost the first two points of the eighth game while serving. But she came through with the only ace of the match, pulled the game out and then broke at love to clinch the match.

"I had some chances and didn't take advantage of them," Spadea said. "She played the crucial points better than I did."

Capriati's second-round match will be against sixth-seeded Helena Sukova, Capriati beat Sukova 6-1, 6-4 last week.

"I think she'll play better," Capriati said. "Because she'll know how I play and how to play me."

## Ski season marred by accidents, bad weather

By Stephan Naestrom  
Associated Press

ARE, SWEDEN — Freakish weather turned the World Cup ski tour into a bizarre adventure this season, with a record number of races cancelled and moved to other sites, especially on the men's side.

On the men's tour, which started in the snowy mountains at Thredbo, Australia, last August, races were cancelled because of too little snow. Then there was too much snow, also postponing or cancelling races.

The same, desperate search for snow kept the World Cup on the move in the past few seasons as well. But it was nothing compared to this season.

Some ski experts even started talking about the greenhouse effect having made its mark on ski racing.

Also, a record number of top skiers were injured.

Some returned in style, including France's Caroline Meier, who won five straight in the super G and giant slalom in February and March after five months of recuperation from a knee injury suffered at Las Lenas, Argentina.

Others didn't. Like Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, a three-time overall champion, injured in a super G spill before Christmas. He did try a comeback, but in late February announced he wouldn't return for the rest of the season.

And Tamara McKinney, the 1983 overall champion from the United States, broke a leg in a training run in Switzerland last October, missing the rest of the season.

A whopping 26 races — 15 men's and 11 women's — out of 64 were cancelled and moved to other sites because of the freakish weather.

Not once in its 24-year history has the alpine ski tour experienced as severe scheduling problems as

this season. "This is the most terrible season I have seen during my 25 years following the World Cup," said Heinz Kreeck, an International Ski Federation (FIS) coordinator.

Among the men, 15 races out of 32 were moved. Among the women, the number was 11 out of 32.

The downhill, the blue ribbon event of Alpine skiing, was hardest hit. Six of the men's nine downhills were moved to other sites four of nine women's downhills were transferred to other venues.

West German organisers couldn't stage a single event this season, with three women's and two men's races scratched from the schedule.

"It was a bizarre season," said Christian Mogore, a ski writer for French daily Dauphine Libere in Grenoble.

"The Swiss ski resort Veysonnaz had no races on the World Cup schedule this year. It ended up

with 13 men's and women's World Cup, European Cup and Swiss National Championship Races."

Swiss all-rounder Firmin Zurbiggen, who tied Italian Gustavo Thoni's all-time record of four men's overall titles, agreed.

"It was the toughest season I've experienced, but it was worth it," said Zurbiggen, who is retiring.

The financial impact was considerable, although most organisers were protected with insurance. But that made the insurance companies the apparent losers this season.

"It's always a hassle to re-schedule everything," said Ole Bakke, chairman of the Alpine Racing Committee of the Norwegian Ski Federation, after a women's downhill in Stranda, Norway, was moved to this north Swedish resort.

"If you're lucky the sponsorship deals can be taken over if the same company is represented in the country where the race is re-scheduled."

It was only fitting that the meet in Kitzbuehel, Austria, the granddaddy of Alpine ski racing, would suffer as well.

It was the World Cup premiere of the two-run sprint downhill. Borne out of the necessity to compromise because of the lack of snow in Kitz, the race was a success, despite scepticism from

the purists. Ade Skardal of Norway won the 50th anniversary Hahnenkamm Downhill Jan. 20, the world's most famous ski race. "When you win here, you take it," he said. "I've been dreaming about winning here since I was a little kid."

The women, at last given a shot to compete at Kitzbuehel, had their super G race cancelled because of lack of snow.

Tony Saylor, a former three-time Olympic champion, announced the decision.

"He had tears in his eyes when he made the announcement on a 'live Austrian telecast from the big square in Kitzbuehel,'" recalled Tommy Persson, a ski writer for Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter.

But the women, who started their season on the Andean slopes at Las Lenas, Argentina, were not as badly affected as the men.

"I think we had quite a nice winter," Swiss star Maria Walliser said in an interview.

"We had great snow conditions and very good races in America early in the season," said Walliser, a former two-time overall World Cup champion, three-time Olympic medalist and three-time world champion.

"But it was hard to find snow in Europe in January and February," noted Walliser, who is retiring after the season.

## Skaardal posts fastest time

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Atle Skaardal of Norway posted the fastest time in the men's world cup downhill final Saturday until fog stopped the competition.

About 45 of 67 starters had completed the race down the Olympia course when poor visibility forced the organisers to halt the downhill.

Organisers said they hoped that the downhill could be completed later in the afternoon.

The course had already been shortened by some 1,000 metres to 1,120 metres because of strong winds on the top of the course.

Skaardal, winner of an historic two-hot downhill at Kitzbuehel earlier this season, had a time of one minute, 16.08, leading 45 racers.

Helmut Hoeflehner of Austria, who has already clinched the season downhill title, was 10 hundredths behind the Norwegian.

Pelk Belczyk of Canada was a further 41 behind for the third fastest time. A.J. Kitt, one of the late starters, had the sixth best time. He was .56 behind Skaardal.

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## Better years in store for the Olympic stadium

BERLIN (INP) — Like the city itself, Berlin's Olympic Stadium has experienced heights and depths during its existence as has no other sports facility in Europe. In more recent years, the low points clearly outnumbered the gala moments: the difficult political situation of the divided city, a broken broker between East and West, prompted many sponsors of major sporting events to avoid the huge stadium with a sell-out capacity of over 80,000.

The only event to fill the stadium to capacity was the traditional final of German football's Association Cup. Hertha BSC, Berlin's most prominent football club, also has seen better days.

The opening of the Berlin Wall, however, promises to put an end to this misfortune. Happy days appear to be just around the corner for the Olympic Stadium, as they appear to be for all of Berlin. The steady re-integration of the city is also taking place in the stadium stands, as more than ten thousand Hertha fans from East Berlin have begun to cheer the team on since this November, in hopes of a return to first-division play.

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# ANC to send team for talks with De Klerk

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — The African National Congress (ANC) will send a delegation to a meeting with the white-led South African government on the political future of that country, a spokesman said Saturday.

The ANC made its stand clear at Lusaka, the Zambian capital, prepared for three days of fresh high-level diplomatic initiatives aimed at bringing about a change in the balance of political power in South Africa.

ANC spokesman Tom Sebina told the Associated Press nothing would stand in the way of the scheduled preliminary discussions April 11 in South Africa, "no matter what."

Lusaka has been the headquarters of the guerrilla movement since it was outlawed in South Africa 30 years.

On Friday, South African President F.W. de Klerk announced that ANC leaders were invited to the talks as a step towards formal power-sharing negotiations.

De Klerk said he wants to negotiate a new constitution that will bring the voteless black majority of 28 million into the national government, but allow the 5 million whites who now wield political power a veto over major policy decisions.

In Lusaka, the ANC spokesman said its delegation would include leaders based both inside and outside South Africa.

The aim of the preliminary negotiations, he said, was to discuss the removal of obstacles blocking formal talks on the political future of the country.

The ANC seeks the end of the 3½ year state of emergency, the release of all other political prisoners and the withdrawal of army troops from black townships as

preconditions for formal discussions.

Sebina said the April 11 talks would be between only the government and the ANC. He maintained that other anti-apartheid groups would not be included.

Once the preliminary talks have been completed, he said, "The ANC has always maintained that the process of negotiations will be democratic in itself."

"If other anti-apartheid organisations want to present their positions on a democratic future South Africa they are welcome to join us around the negotiating table."

Previously, Pretoria has said other leaders including those of the 10 black homeland groups would be present at talks on the future of the country.

De Klerk's invitation to the ANC comes amid a new flurry of diplomacy in southern Africa.

The so-called frontline states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — are holding a summit Sunday.

On Monday, the 50-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU) southern Africa committee, is meeting to discuss how to settle long-time wars in the region.

On the same day, talks are expected between African leaders and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who is scheduled to stop in Lusaka on his way to the March 21 independence celebrations in Namibia.

## Mandela returns home

Meanwhile Nelson Mandela returned home from a foreign tour Saturday to face a nation wracked by bloody fighting between black factions and township riots against police.

Against the background of the fighting, Mandela and other ANC leaders must prepare for their first formal talks with the white government.

Mandela, his wife Winnie, and a small entourage, were embraced by waiting black officials, and greeted with raised fists by a dozen airport workers at the stairs of the Swissair jet that brought them from Sweden.

Mandela had attended a rally and concert in his honour Friday night in Stockholm, where he had spent five days consulting with ANC President Oliver Tambo, who is recovering from a stroke.

Mandela, 71, was elected deputy president of the ANC when he began his five-nation tour in Zambia early this month, and is effectively leader of the largest black opposition group until Tambo recovers.

Mandela is expected to lead the ANC delegation of internal and external officials who will meet April 11 with de Klerk to try to clear away obstacles to formal negotiations on a new constitution and an end to apartheid.

At the Stockholm rally, Mandela urged increased foreign pressure on the South African government to meet the ANC's conditions for negotiations. They include lifting the national state of emergency, freeing all prisoners convicted of politically motivated crimes, and guaranteeing returning exiles won't be arrested.

# Nepal king rules out multi-party system

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — King Birendra of Nepal Friday rejected demands for a multi-party system in his Himalayan kingdom but said there was room for some changes.

Before he spoke, police broke up a demonstration at Patan College on the outskirts of Katmandu and arrested about 150 people, including writers and entertainers, according to witnesses.

Protesters wore black bands over their mouths to demonstrate their opposition to government's efforts to silence demands for democracy. They distributed statements accusing the government of arresting dozens of writers and artists during a recent crackdown, the witnesses said.

Some protesters were beaten while being arrested, witnesses said.

Hundreds of people have been arrested in a government crackdown on the movement, which was launched on Feb. 18 by the banned Nepali Congress Party and a coalition of left-wing groups. At least 12 people have been killed in confrontations between police and the agitators.

Birendra, in a speech broadcast by the state-owned radio station after Friday's protest, said: "We have instituted reforms as called for by the changing needs of time. And, taking into account the Nepalese aspirations, this process will continue."

He said there would be no change in the composition of the non-partisan Rashtriya Panchayat, or National Assembly. Political pluralism in the assembly is a key demand of a pro-democracy movement seeking an end to a 29-year-old royal decree banning political parties.

The Nepali Congress Party said Birendra's speech was "politically most disappointing." "Indications of reform in the Panchayat system in the royal address cannot solve the real problems of the nation," the party said in a statement.

The speech, the statement said, "strengthened the commitment of those who have taken to the path... to fervently carry out the movement till the objective is achieved."

Birendra, a 44-year-old graduate from Harvard University, said the partyless character of the National Assembly would continue because "a 1980 national referendum had decided in its favour."

"Our political tradition relies on the popular will, and the mandate given by the national referendum is the basis for retaining" the Panchayat system, he said.

Birendra also said there could be no solution to a problem "where there is irresponsible behaviour and undignified acts disregarding the interest of the country and people."

# Castro defends electoral system

BRASILIA (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro says his three-decade-old Communist government doesn't need to be tested with a popular vote, declaring, "you don't play with the revolution."

Under pressure because of democratic reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America, the hard-line Communist leader gave a two-hour news conference Friday, one day after attending the inauguration of Brazil's new elected President Fernando Collor de Mello.

Asked by reporters if he could win a direct election with other candidates, the Cuban president said: "It would be foolishness to have a test only to prove wrong those who say Cuba holds fraudulent elections."

"Our system isn't direct, it's indirect, but in my judgment very democratic," said Castro, who has ruled Cuba since the 1959 revolution.

He said he felt "repugnance" for the electoral system in the United States, which he called "a parody."

His comments appeared to be in response to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who Thursday asked "anyone who is in contact with Castro to ask him when he's going to have elections." Quayle also attended the Collor's inauguration.

Congresses of the ruling Communist Party choose Cuba's leadership. On Thursday, Cuba's official

cial Prensa Latina announced that the first party congress in four years would be held in the first half of 1991.

Castro said he was secure in his leadership.

"How would it be possible to sustain the revolution faced for 30 years with a blockade from the United States if it didn't have support?" he said.

Asked about recent critical articles on him in the Soviet Union and his decision to censor circulation of Soviet magazines in Cuba, Castro responded: "We made the error of deifying everything that was coming from there, and now the poison arrives," he said. "The revolution can't be an idiot nor a fool and should have means of defence."

He said Latin America must cooperate "or we will be forever colonies."

Castro also dismissed as an "exaggeration" news reports that Brazilian authorities stopped his bodyguards from bringing in a huge cache of weapons for his security.

"There were two or three bazookas and a machine gun. Maybe it was excessive diligence for my care," he said.

In the afternoon, during a surprise visit to the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, Castro said the Roman Catholic Church in Cuba should dedicate itself to the people instead of "assuming an anti-revolutionary position."

Castro told the reporters that

in the last month or so the Cuban church has been "giving signals that it would prefer to collaborate with the North American church and sectors."

According to Castro, a visit to Cuba by Pope John Paul II is "practically agreed upon."

Castro was to visit Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro before leaving Brazil Monday.

Debate will be allowed at Cuba's first Communist Party congress in four years, but the party's 31-year monopoly on power will not be challenged, the state news agency said.

Prensa Latina said the announcement of the congress was made by Defence Minister Raul Castro, the brother of the Cuban president.

The party said the meeting would not exhibit "unreal eagerness of unanimity — false, mechanical and formal."

However, the party, which seized power in a 1959 revolution, made clear its intention to retain full control of the Caribbean island.

"Our Communist Party, the base of political organisation in our society, is perfecting itself to better complete its work of historical transcendence that we are setting up today," it said.

When the government announced in February that a party congress would be called, there was speculation that the move might signal a change in course for the hard-line Marxist government.

# COLUMN 8

## Fans keep Mohammad Ali in Jakarta mosque

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of fans of Mohammad Ali crowded the entrance of the Istiglal Mosque and prevented the former boxing champion from leaving for an hour. Ali, who arrived last Tuesday for a week-long visit in Jakarta, was praying at South East Asia's largest mosque along with some 70,000 other Muslims. In a brief address before the prayer, Ali said he was glad to have a chance to pray in the capital of the world's most populous Muslim country. "We love you Ali," the worshippers chorused. After the prayer, Ali was guided to the podium to lead an Islamic confession of creed.

## Stockholm launches rat war

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Authorities have declared war on vermin after two successive mild winters encouraged an exploding rodent population in Stockholm's inner city, where experts now count two rats per human. The Svenska Dagbladet daily quoted officials as saying they expect it to take three years to bring the rats under control. Next week, four "commando groups" will begin talking the sewage system armed with rat poison. "We will open up 8,000 sewage outlets a year and put out rat poison," said exterminator Gyorgy Bellaigh. An estimated 2 million rats prowl Stockholm's cellars, sewage pipes and subway tunnels, and some appear to be abandoning their overcrowded subterranean domains.

## Hong Kong busts sex-root gang

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong people who have been eating ginseng only to find their sex lives drag along in a dull rut now know the reason why. Hong Kong customs officers said Friday they had smashed a gang that was selling an inferior type of the fetus-shaped root under the label of the famed Korean red. Afficionados say Korean red boosts sex drive and prolongs life.

# Warsaw Pact ministers discuss German unity, European future

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — The seven foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact met Saturday on the eve of East Germany's elections to discuss German unification and its impact on international relations in Europe.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his colleagues opened the day's brainstorming session with a meeting with President Vaclav Havel, a leading advocate of the eventual dissolution of both the NATO and the Warsaw Pact military alliances.

The Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) said Havel presented unspecified proposals concerning German unity and the future of the united Europe, and that these were "exceptionally well received" by the ministers.

The ministers then went into a closed-door meeting at a luxurious former Communist Party hotel.

Since a peaceful revolution overturned the Communist

monopoly on power in Czechoslovakia last December, Havel and foreign minister Jiri Dienstbier have swiftly moved to centre stage in East-West politics. They have visited European capitals and the superpowers to preach the ideas of a bloc-free Europe that arise from philosophies they developed as dissidents.

After receiving the ministers, Havel flew off to the mountains on the Polish border for a meeting with Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa. Only a year ago, such meetings between Czechoslovak and Polish dissidents were conducted in secret, and almost always watched or broken up by police.

Saturday's Warsaw Pact gathering came on the eve of East Germany's first free elections since Adolf Hitler took power in Germany in 1933. On Thursday, Havel and West German President Richard von Weizsaecker

met in Prague on the 51st anniversary of Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia.

That meeting served as a further gesture of reconciliation between Prague and the two Germans, following Havel's visit — his first trip abroad as president — to East Berlin and Munich in January.

While Czechoslovakia and Hungary have stressed they do not oppose German reunification, both countries have strongly advocated that Poland be included in talks on German unification. Both countries also say that a reunified Germany should respect Poland's current borders.

The history of all the states in the Warsaw Pact in deeply intertwined with Germany's centuries-long evolution from a series of small principalities and dukedoms into a strong empire, then a Nazi dictatorship, and now the potentially 80-million strong economic powerhouse of Europe.

# Newest U.S. spy satellite to plunge into atmosphere

MOSCOW (AP) — The newest U.S. spy satellite is disintegrating in space and fragments are expected to plunge into the atmosphere within a month, the Novosti News Agency said Saturday.

In Washington, the U.S. Defence Department said Friday only that "hardware elements" carried into orbit by the Atlantis space shuttle would fall from the sky soon. But a later U.S. newspaper report said the satellite itself had malfunctioned and would plunge into the atmosphere.

Novosti said Soviet space tracking systems detected four orbiting fragments, "which presumably separated from the American spy satellite which was recently put into orbit by the Atlantis reusable spacecraft."

The satellite was launched on Feb. 28 from aboard the space shuttle Atlantis during a secret military mission. U.S. sources had said the mission involved launching a sophisticated spy satellite.

Novosti said scientists who analysed the fragments' orbits believe the objects will fall to Earth, possibly over northern regions of the Soviet Union, sometime between Monday and April 10.

The Washington Post newspaper, in a report Saturday, an unidentified U.S. intelligence official as characterising the malfunction as a "serious setback."

The heat of re-entry will destroy major components and prevent anyone from recovering super-secret equipment, the newspaper quoted intelligence officials.

An earlier Defence Department (DOD) statement said only that the mission "achieved its goal in association with a classified DOD programme." The statement did not mention a

# THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Eitzen

### NEVER-NEVER LANDS

By Louis Sabia

ACROSS

- 1 Sport of tennis
- 2 Fragment
- 3 Spheres
- 4 Ship a-sailing
- 5 Wings
- 6 West Side Story's hit
- 7 Nestling sound
- 8 Blunder
- 9 Pinta's partner
- 10 Chick
- 11 Cornet
- 12 Rowing items
- 13 Monster land in Sunshine State?
- 14 Right, right?
- 15 Sit
- 16 Go wrong

DOWN

- 1 Sound effect
- 2 Madly
- 3 Fountainhead
- 4 Rocky of boring passages
- 5 Bouquet
- 6 Birthplace
- 7 District
- 8 Out with it
- 9 Musical interval
- 10 River to the North Sea
- 11 Globes
- 12 Kid pouch
- 13 Jail
- 14 Guardian's charge
- 15 Loop handle of a vase
- 16 Gymnasium
- 17 Ratio term
- 18 Fall behind

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. A well-mannered and even-tempered puzzle composer never uttered a cross word. Zounds!

2. No matter what you're looking for, somehow you find that all the good ones are taken.

3. Very waggish nicknames were first invented by children of bookish Englishmen.

4. Science teaches us that Nature tries to avoid a void.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	15	Clear
ATHENS	17	25	Clear
BATH	17	25	Clear
BIRMINGHAM	17	25	Clear
BANGKOK	23	34	Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	14	23	Clear
CARACAS	14	23	Clear
CHICAGO	04	17	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05	15	Clear
FRANKFURT	03	17	Clear
GENEVA	04	18	Clear
HONG KONG	16	21	Clear
ISRAEL	04	18	Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	22	Clear
MADRID	09	20	Clear
MECCA	21	30	Clear
MONTREAL	09	15	Clear
MOSCOW	04	18	Clear
NEW DELHI	18	25	Clear
NEW YORK	13	25	Clear
PARIS	08	21	Clear
ROME	07	21	Clear
SYDNEY	17	25	Clear
TOKYO	07	14	Clear
WENNA	07	14	Clear

M - indicates missing information.

### Diagramless

21 X 21, By Frances Burton

ACROSS

- 1 Dog's cousin
- 2 Baked in —
- 3 Stopping
- 4 Pythons
- 5 Love in Milan
- 6 Tapers
- 7 Slinger Calkins
- 8 Galle
- 9 Toward shelter
- 10 Ring
- 11 Law and —
- 12 Glaring
- 13 Pleasant
- 14 Synthetic
- 15 Negligent
- 16 Cavalier base
- 17 Caves
- 18 Imperfection
- 19 Scent
- 20 Toward making do
- 21 Top
- 22 Portion
- 23 Revealed a secret
- 24 Ring of light
- 25 Wading
- 26 Bird
- 27 Filly
- 28 Complicated
- 29 Penetrated's miles
- 30 Ireland
- 31 Marked up
- 32 Car wash step
- 33 Gash teeth
- 34 Smooch
- 35 Aviv
- 36 Sp. dance
- 37 "Aber"
- 38 Boutique
- 39 Possess
- 40 Angered
- 41 For each
- 42 Child's weapon
- 43 Harshly
- 44 Humiliated
- 45 Narrow-minded
- 46 Sassy
- 47 Assuredly
- 48 Disorder
- 49 Agitated
- 50 Despot
- 51 Med. sch. subj.
- 52 Smallest bills
- 53 Filthy
- 54 Cops
- 55 Penetrated's miles
- 56 At or Bobby of
- 57 Insane
- 58 Headliner
- 59 Knight's titles
- 60 Throws
- 61 Border
- 62 Moon features
- 63 Occupying vessel
- 64 Actor Johnson
- 65 Marty security
- 66 Enthusiastic reviews
- 67 Assuredly
- 68 Disorder
- 69 Agitated
- 70 Despot

Handwritten signature: John J. ...